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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-eighth session
(19-27 April 1993)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 19 April 1993

1.	Adoption of the Agenda	
2.	Changing situation in the ECE region: review of economic reforms and major developments	
3.	Commission's activities designed to assist countries of the region in transition to a market economy and their integration with the European and global economy	E/ECE/1272
4.	Activities of the Economic Commission for Europe to implement the pertinent provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and other CSCE documents, including the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Helsinki Document 1992	E/ECE/1273
5.	The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies:	
	(a) review of ECE activities since the forty-seventh session and implementation of decision O (45) and decisions of the forty-seventh session	1/

1/ For documentation on this sub-item see the explanatory notes to the Provisional Agenda

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(b)	ECE programme of work for 1993-1997 - the future work of the Commission; coordination of, and guidelines for, the activities of its subsidiary bodies	E/ECE/1277
(c)	cooperation and coordination of activities with other international organizations and institutions	E/ECE/1278
(d)	resolutions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly	E/ECE/1282
(e)	Commission's contribution to the United Nations global programmes and to the Organization's programmes designed to assist developing countries of other regions	E/ECE/1283

6. Other business

7. Election of Officers

8. Annual Report of the Commission

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE AGENDA

General

1. Taking into account the indications given at the forty-seventh session of the Commission (E/1992/32, paragraph 224) and at the Ad Hoc Informal Meetings of the Commission held since that session, subsequent consultations with the Officers of the Commission, and relevant decisions of the Economic and Social Council, the period from Monday, 19 April to Tuesday, 27 April 1993 has been reserved for the forty-eighth session of the Commission.

2. In accordance with Rule 3 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the basic documents referred to in the Provisional Agenda (E/ECE/1271) will, wherever possible, be transmitted to Governments "not less than forty-two days before the opening of the session", i.e. not later than 8 March 1993.

3. The provisional Order of Business for the forty-eighth session of the Commission is annexed hereto. It has been drawn up by the Executive Secretary in accordance with the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group set up by the Ad Hoc Informal Meeting on 5 October for the strengthening of the annual session of the Commission, and in consultation with the Bureau at its meetings on 17 December 1992 and 14 January 1993. It takes into account the fact that not all the recommendations of the Working Group can be implemented in time for the forty-eighth session. Accordingly the Commission will at its opening meeting set up the Sessional Committee for the forty-eighth session.

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

4. According to Rule 7 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, "the first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda". According to Rule 8, "the Commission may amend the agenda at any time".

Item 2: Changing situation in the ECE region: review of economic reforms and major developments
Policy statements

5. Under this item delegations may wish to present policy statements on the economic situation and policy developments in their country and in the region, and on the work of the Commission as a whole since the forty-seventh session.

6. Delegations are invited to supply the full text of their policy statements to the secretariat for distribution to Permanent Missions in Geneva whenever possible at least one week in advance of the opening of the session. During the session delegations will be allotted a maximum of ten minutes each for the presentation of their policy statement.

Economic Survey of Europe in 1992-1993

7. Under this item there will be a presentation by the secretariat of the Economic Survey of Europe in 1992-1993 (ECE(48)/1). To promote an exchange of views on this occasion the secretariat will issue prior to the session an overview of the main development issues and policies contained in the

Survey. Delegations will be limited to a 10-minute oral presentation during which they are urged to avoid giving detailed information on developments in their individual countries. It is hoped that such information will be circulated in a written text to be transmitted to the secretariat as early as possible (preferably in about 50 copies) for distribution to participants at the session.

Round Table

Under this item the afternoon session on Friday, 23 April will be devoted to a Round Table discussion with the participation of personalities in the world of politics and economics on the selected theme: Integration of the countries in transition, including new members States, into the European economy: what can be expected of the ECE in key sectors?

Item 3: Commission's activities designed to assist countries of the region in transition to a market economy and their integration with the European and global economy

8. Under this item the Commission will consider the Executive Secretary's report (E/ECE/1272) on the activities of subsidiary bodies and the secretariat during the past year in this respect, particularly the programme of workshops and other forms of assistance to countries in transition. The report will also provide a full account of follow-up action taken in the implementation of Commission decision D (47) - The work of the Commission concerning economies in transition in eastern and central Europe. It will also take into account the special needs of new members of the Commission. Under this item the Commission may wish to consider the proposal made at the Ad Hoc Informal Meetings to pay special attention to privatization.

Item 4: Activities of the Economic Commission for Europe to implement the pertinent provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and other CSCE documents, including the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Helsinki Document 1992

9. In accordance with preambular paragraph 3 and operative paragraph 2 of decision A (46) and its previous resolutions, the Commission will have before it for the consideration of this item the report of the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/1273). The report will take into account the pertinent provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and other CSCE documents which call for multilateral implementation within the framework of the ECE, including the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Helsinki Document 1992. Note will also be taken of the outcome of the CSCE Economic Forum tentatively scheduled for 16-18 March 1993. The report will also contain an account of follow-up action taken in response to Commission decision G (47) - Economic Cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE. Under this item the Commission may wish to consider the proposal made at the Ad Hoc Informal Meetings to reconcile the priorities in the economic field indicated by the CSCE with those defined in Commission decision O (45).

Item 5: The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies:

(a) review of ECE activities since the forty-seventh session and implementation of decision O (45) and decisions of the forty-seventh session

(b) ECE programme of work for 1993-1997 - the future work of the Commission; coordination of, and guidelines for, the activities of its subsidiary bodies

(c) cooperation and coordination of activities with other international organizations and institutions

(d) resolutions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly

(e) Commission's contribution to the United Nations global programmes and to the Organisation's programmes designed to assist developing countries of other regions

This item will be discussed in the Sessional Committee. The Committee's discussion of agenda item 5 (The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies) will cover the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, including elements which require a cross-sectoral approach by more than one subsidiary body, and those which do not fall within the purview of a subsidiary body. The discussion will consider the programme of work both vertically and horizontally, and will entail a review of the past year's activities as well as a preview of the work for the year ahead. The Committee is expected to discuss aspects of the work which require the Commission's attention, decision or action. The horizontal debate will be presided over by the Chairman of the Commission with the collective participation of representatives of the bureau of each subsidiary body reporting directly to the Commission. Consideration of this item will take into account the sub-items which are as follows:

10. For discussion of sub-item (a) **review of ECE activities since the forty-seventh session and implementation of decision O (45) and decisions of the forty-seventh session** the Commission will have before it the reports of these bodies as listed in the footnote. 2/

11. The Report of the Chairman of the Commission on his consultations with the officers of the subsidiary bodies in the course of the year, in accordance with the provisions of decision P (45), will also be available to the Commission. The Summary Document prepared by the secretariat for the

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Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments (twenty-eighth session)	ECE/EC.AD/40
Committee on Agriculture (forty-fourth session)	ECE/AGRI/122
Timber Committee (fiftieth session)	ECE/TIM/63
Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems (sixth session)	ECE/ENVWA/29
Committee on Human Settlements (fifty-third session)	ECE/HBP/86
Committee on the Development of Trade (forty-first session)	ECE/TRADE/184
Committee on Energy (second session)	ECE/ENERGY/21
Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology (twentieth session)	ECE/SC.TECH/44
Inland Transport Committee (fifty-fifth session)	ECE/TRANS/97
Conference of European Statisticians (fortieth session)	ECE/CES/40
Working Party on the Chemical Industry (second session)	ECE/CHEM/86
Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation (twelfth session)	ECE/ENG.AUT/51
Working Party on Standardization Policies (second session)	ECE/STAND/36
Working Party on Steel (second session)	ECE/STEEL/80

Ad Hoc Informal Meetings in January and March 1993 will also be made available to delegations. The Summary Document will reflect the highlights and difficulties encountered as well as other relevant issues relating to the work of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission. The summaries of the Ad Hoc Informal Meetings convened since the forty-seventh session by the Chairman in accordance with the same decision will also be available to the Commission (ECE/AC.20/92(1) etc.).

12. The secretariat will submit reports on the progress made in the implementation of Commission decision B (47) - The provision of adequate resources for the servicing of the priority sectors of the Economic Commission for Europe (E/ECE/1274); Commission decision E (47) - Cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development (E/ECE/1275) and Commission decision F (47) - Cooperation in the field of transport (E/ECE/1276).

13. For consideration of sub-item (b) **ECE programme of work for 1993-1997 - the future work of the Commission; coordination of, and guidelines for, the activities of its subsidiary bodies**, the Committee will have before it the Executive Secretary's note E/ECE/1277, which will contain the Commission's draft programme of work for 1993-1997, supplemented by factual information on such questions as meetings, reports and other documentation, as required by decision O (45). The Committee will consider the concentration and integration of the Commission's programme of work and its activities of a cross-sectoral nature. Representatives of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission will be invited to participate collectively in the Committee's consideration of the coordination of the programme of work and its cross-sectoral activities and potential. Under this item the Committee will have before it the programme narrative of the ECE budget submission for the biennium 1994-1995 as well as the ECE Medium Term Plan for 1992 to 1997, in accordance with Commission decision A (44): Work of the Sessional Committee.

14. For discussion of sub-item **(c) cooperation and coordination of activities with other international organizations and institutions**, the Committee will have before it the Executive Secretary's note E/ECE/1278 which will contain an account of developments concerning the cooperation and coordination of activities of the Commission and its secretariat with other international organizations and institutions during the past year, with particular emphasis on those active in the ECE region and cited by the Commission in its decisions. Under this sub-item the Commission may wish to consider the proposal made at the Ad Hoc Informal Meetings to organize more joint activities, at both the intergovernmental and secretariat levels, with other international organizations and institutions active in the region.

15. For discussion of sub-item **(d) resolutions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly**, the Committee will have before it the Executive Secretary's note E/ECE/1279 which will refer to relevant resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly during the period since the close of the forty-seventh session of the Commission which call for action by the Commission or otherwise have a bearing on its work.

16. For consideration of sub-item **(e) Commission's contribution to the United Nations global programmes and programmes the Organisation's programmes designed to assist developing countries of other regions**, the Committee will have before it the Executive Secretary's note E/ECE/1280 in which an account is given of the progress made in the work of the Commission since the forty-seventh session in respect of technical cooperation activities, including those carried out in

cooperation with the other regional commissions and donor organizations. It will also review the Commission's contribution to global programmes of the United Nations including forthcoming or recent global conferences or international years.

Item 6: Other business

17. Under this item the Commission may wish to consider possible recommendations for a revision of its Terms of Reference, with particular regard to Article 7 on membership, for consideration by the Economic and Social Council, and its Rules of Procedure. The Commission will also hear a statement by the Executive Secretary concerning the date and place of the forty-ninth session of the Commission.

Item 12: Election of Officers

18. According to Rule 13 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, as amended at the forty-second session, at the closing meeting of its forty-seventh session the Commission elected Mr. William Rossier (Switzerland) Chairman and Mr. Bernard Miyet (France) Vice-Chairman of the Commission's forty-eighth session. The Commission also elected Mr. Kalin A. Borissov (Bulgaria) Chairman and Ms. Bettina Kirnbauer (Austria) Vice-Chairman of the Sessional Committee. At the closing session of the forty-eighth session the Commission will elect its Officers for the forty-ninth session, taking into account a proposal to enlarge the Bureau.

Item 13: Annual Report of the Commission

19. This item will be organized in two parts. The first part will take place on Monday, 26 April, and will include the adoption of draft decisions relating to the work of the Commission as a whole, including the approval of its programme of work for 1993-1994 and the endorsement in principle, subject to review at its forty-ninth session, of its programme of work for 1994-1997. The Executive Secretary will ensure the advance distribution of draft resolutions or decisions. In accordance with the decision of the General Assembly, draft decisions to be adopted at the forty-eighth session must be made available to the Executive Secretary 24 hours before their adoption for a review of possible financial implications. The second part will be held on Tuesday, 27 April and will be devoted to the adoption of the report of the session which will be prepared in the course of the session by rapporteur(s) to be appointed by the Commission and assisted by the secretariat.

ANNEX

PROVISIONAL ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

In accordance with the established practice for the allocation of items of the agenda for consideration by the Plenary or the Sessional Committee, it is proposed that:

(i) Items 2, 3 and 4 be discussed together in the Plenary as the general debate.

(ii) On the occasion of the setting up of the Sessional Committee the Chairman will propose to the Commission that item 5 be allocated for preliminary consideration by the Sessional Committee.

To avoid an overlap over meetings in the Plenary and the Sessional Committee there will be no simultaneous meetings during the session.

The Chairman of the Sessional Committee, when reporting to the Plenary on the outcome of the deliberations of that Committee (during the resumption of the general discussion under item 5), will transmit the recommendations of the Committee on the programme of work of the Commission's subsidiary bodies. The Plenary will thereafter consider and eventually approve the reports of the subsidiary bodies.

PROVISIONAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Monday 19 April

Morning session: **Plenary**

Opening of the forty-eighth session of the Commission

Adoption of the agenda
(Agenda item 1)

Setting up of the Sessional Committee and allocation of items for its consideration

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Changing situation in the ECE region: review of economic reforms and major developments: Policy statements
(Agenda item 2)

To be discussed together with

Commission's activities designed to assist countries of the region in transition to market economy and their integration with the European and global economy
(Agenda item 3)

and

Activities of the ECE to implement the pertinent provisions of the Final Act of the CSCE and other CSCE documents, including the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Helsinki Declaration 1992
(Agenda item 4)

Afternoon session: **Plenary**

Changing situation in the ECE region: review of economic reforms and major developments: Policy statements
(Agenda item 2) (continued)

To be discussed together with

Commission's activities designed to assist countries of the region in transition to market economy and their integration with the European and global economy
(Agenda item 3) (continued)

and

Activities of the ECE to implement the pertinent provisions of the Final Act of the CSCE and other CSCE documents, including the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Helsinki Declaration 1992
(Agenda item 4) (continued)

Tuesday 20 April

Morning session: **Plenary**

Changing situation in the ECE region: review of economic reforms and major developments: Policy statements
(Agenda item 2) (continued)

To be discussed together with

Commission's activities designed to assist countries of the region in transition to market economy and their integration with the European and global economy
(Agenda item 3) (continued)

and

Activities of the ECE to implement the pertinent provisions of the Final Act of the CSCE and other CSCE documents, including the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Helsinki Declaration 1992
(Agenda item 4) (continued)

Afternoon session: **Plenary**

Changing situation in the ECE region: review of economic reforms and major developments
(Agenda item 2) (continued)

Presentation of the Economic Survey of Europe for 1992-1993 and exchange of views

Wednesday 21 April

Sessional Committee

The Committee's discussion of agenda item 5 (The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies) will cover the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, including elements which require a cross-sectoral approach by more than one subsidiary body, and those which do not fall within the purview of a subsidiary body. The discussion will consider the programme of work both vertically and horizontally, and will entail a review of the past year's activities as well as a preview of the work for the year ahead. The Committee is expected to discuss aspects of the work which require the Commission's attention, decision or action. The horizontal debate, scheduled for the afternoon session of Thursday, 22 April, will be presided over by the Chairman of the Commission and will include the collective participation of representatives of the bureau of each subsidiary body reporting directly to the Commission. Consideration of this item will take into account the sub-items which are as follows:

(a) review of ECE activities since the forty-seventh session and the implementation of decision O (45) and of decisions of the forty-seventh session

(b) programme of work for 1993-1997 - the future work of the Commission; coordination of, and guidelines for, the activities of its subsidiary bodies

(c) cooperation and coordination of activities with other organizations and institutions

(d) resolutions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by ECOSOC and the General Assembly

(e) Commission's contribution to the United Nations global programmes and to the Organization's programmes designed to assist developing countries of other regions

Thursday 22 April

Morning session: **Sessional Committee**

Continuation of the consideration of agenda item 5 (sub-items (a)-(e))

Afternoon session: **Sessional Committee**

The Committee's discussion of agenda item 5 (The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies) will cover the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, including elements which require a cross-sectoral approach by more than one subsidiary body, and those which do not fall within the purview of a subsidiary body. This session, which will be presided over by the Chairman of the Commission, will be devoted to a horizontal discussion of the work of the Commission's subsidiary bodies with the collective participation of representatives of the bureau of each subsidiary body reporting directly to the Commission.

Friday 23 April

Morning session: **Plenary**

Statement by the Chairman of the Sessional Committee on the outcome of its deliberations on item 5

Adoption of the programme of work
(Agenda item 5)

Other business
(Agenda item 6)

ECE project presentation

Afternoon session: **Plenary**

Changing situation in the ECE region: review of economic reforms and major developments (Agenda item 2) (resumed)

Round Table: Integration of the countries in transition, including new member states, into the European economy: what can be expected of the ECE in key sectors?

Monday 26 April

Plenary

Adoption of decisions
(Agenda items 2 to 7)

Election of Officers
(Agenda item 7)

Tuesday 27 April

Plenary

Adoption of the Report of the session
(Agenda item 8)

UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

GENERAL

E/ECE/1272
9 March 1993

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-eighth session
(Provisional Agenda item 3)

COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ASSIST COUNTRIES OF THE REGION IN TRANSITION TO A MARKET ECONOMY AND THEIR INTEGRATION WITH THE EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL ECONOMY

BACKGROUND

1. In April 1990 the Commission, in its decision D (45), took account of the fact that the recent and current developments in Europe had modified in varying ways the characteristics and functioning of the societies and economies of the region. Given the composition of the ECE and the nature of the cooperation which it implements, the Commission concluded that it had a role to play in assisting the transition to a market economy. Accordingly it requested the Executive Secretary to present a number of practical themes for workshops to respond to the different aspects of the transition process. It also called on the Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments to discuss those themes at their next session. Decision D (45) marked the beginning of the Commission's efforts to provide a supportive framework within the ECE to assist countries of the region which were in transition to a market economy and to facilitate their integration into the European and world economy.

2. In December 1990 the Commission adopted decision O (45) in which it decided not only to prioritize its programme of work but also to adjust its work methods, goals and structures to reflect the nature of the transition process. It noted that its work in priority sectors contributed significantly to promoting reform and integration or reintegration of the economies in transition, and it accorded higher priority to analytical work on the nature and difficulties of the transition process. It went on to observe that the benefits initially sought by countries in transition were contacts and technical and policy advice, and that transition-related activities, if they were to serve a real purpose, should be topical, timely, useful, economical

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and non-duplicative. The Commission also cited examples of workshop themes for all sectors of its work.

3. At the request of the Commission the Senior Economic Advisers at their twenty-sixth session in May/June 1990 discussed practical themes for workshops that might be proposed to other Principal Subsidiary Bodies using, whenever possible, an interdisciplinary approach (see ECE/EC.AD/36, Annex II). Similarly, at its fifty-first session in October 1990 the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning elaborated guidelines for the organization of workshops on transition in the field of human settlements (see ECE/HBP/80, Annex II).

4. In its decision B (46), adopted in April 1991, the Commission stressed the importance it attached to the promotion of the process of economic reform and transition to a market economy in the countries of central and eastern Europe and requested its subsidiary bodies to contribute to the preparation of practical workshops on the transition process. It also reaffirmed the need for high-quality observation and analysis of the development of economies in the region, particularly in central and eastern Europe, in order to promote the process of economic reform and to integrate the economies in transition into the global economy.

5. In April 1992 the Commission, in its decision D (47), reaffirmed the importance which it attached to the promotion of the process of economic reform and transition to market economies in countries of central and eastern Europe, and underlined that this process met the interest of all ECE member countries. It reiterated that work in priority sectors contributed significantly to the transition process, and that in other areas the primary work methods employed to address the transition process should be informal fora such as workshops. It expressed satisfaction with work already done and confirmed its readiness to encourage, within existing resources, the process of transition, and it invited Governments, international institutions and private donors to examine possibilities to finance the workshops on transition. It invited its subsidiary bodies to continue to contribute to the programme of workshops, and also invited the Executive Secretary to prepare a comprehensive study evaluating the results of the workshops to be submitted to the Ad Hoc Informal Meeting of the Commission with a view to preparing concrete recommendations concerning the organization and methodology of future workshops for the next annual session. The present report constitutes an initial response to that request.

REGULAR PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

6. In response to the provisions of Commission decisions D (45), O (45), B (46) and D (47), the programmes of work adopted by ECE subsidiary bodies have to an increasing extent incorporated activities designed to meet the needs of the countries in transition. Whereas in the past those programmes focused largely on the exchange of information and promotion of cooperation, increasing emphasis is now placed on the analysis of the nature and difficulties of the transition process and on policy questions, reform reviews and assistance needs.

7. These activities range from work on the development of infrastructure, guides on important aspects of the reform process, such as privatization and property rights, standardization and legal instruments to promote integration into the region as a whole and special programmes of assistance.

8. The ECE has augmented its work in promoting the integration of infrastructure networks in the form of operational projects on trans-European motorways (TEM) and trans-European railways (TER) including combined transport, as well as the interconnection of electric power grids and the development of regionwide gas pipeline systems. Innovative approaches have been adopted in the recently launched ECE programme "Energy Efficiency 2000" which aims at narrowing the serious east-west energy efficiency gap.

9. Activities designed to promote integration and cooperation at the micro-economic level have also intensified, providing the business community with practical guides and handbooks on joint ventures, private investment, legal aspects of privatization and property rights, etc., which are of particular interest for the transformation process in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

10. The record of ECE conventions and agreements is impressive in the fields of transport and environment. It includes such important instruments as agreements on transport infrastructure networks of roads, railways and combined transport lines, the well-known TIR Convention, the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution with its Protocols on Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Oxide and Volatile Organic Compounds, and the Conventions on Environmental Impact Assessment, on Industrial Accidents and on Transboundary Waters. This has proved a more cost-effective method than the elaboration of such instruments through traditional diplomatic negotiations and conferences.

11. In the area of standardization and harmonization of rules and regulations on a region-wide scale the ECE has made important progress in its work on trade facilitation including UN/EDIFACT (i.e. the computerization of trade and transport documents and information), construction of vehicles, transport of dangerous goods, harmonization and simplification of frontier and customs formalities, standardization of agricultural products, and others.

12. An example of special programmes of assistance to the countries in transition is the proposal for assistance to economies in transition in the area of trade facilitation and UN/EDIFACT which was submitted to the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures in September 1992 and to the Committee on the Development of Trade in December 1992. The Working Party will revert to this subject in March 1993.

13. The ECE transport regional adviser has also responded to requests from a number of countries in transition by providing services in the field on a range of issues concerning transport policy and technology. The adviser is the only one redeployed to the ECE in the framework of the exercise carried out to implement Assembly resolution 32/197 concerning the decentralization of UN activities in the economic and social fields. The services of advisers in other sectors of the ECE programme of work would be of great benefit to the countries in transition. There are currently more than 80 regional advisers at UN Headquarters and some 50 located in the other regional commissions.

14. All Principal Subsidiary Bodies have carefully reviewed their role in the new economic context and in the light of developments in the region, and have revised their terms of reference accordingly.

15. The Conference of European Statisticians, for example, in 1992 agreed on the five elements of its "transition policy". That policy specifies the role of the Conference in the range of international efforts to assist the countries concerned in their transition to a statistical system that is adapted to the needs of a market economy.

16. The Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems, taking into account the outcome of the 1989 Sofia CSCE Meeting on the protection of the environment and in close cooperation with OECD, are engaged in promoting environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, in particular in countries in transition.

17. In January 1992 the Timber Committee established a separate programme element to cover all its assistance to countries in transition in the forest and forest products sector. An informal FAO/ECE meeting on strategies for assistance to countries in transition held in Ossiach (Austria) in October 1992 drew up a concise concept of programme areas, themes and priorities for further assistance which was endorsed by the Committee.

18. Many of the elements in the programme of work of the Committee on Energy, and in particular those dealing with reforms overviews, policy evaluation, information transfer and demonstration projects, are of special interest to the countries in transition.

19. In 1992 the Committee on Human Settlements revised its terms of reference to focus on two primary objectives, namely assistance to countries in transition and sustainable development. The Committee has been very active in the organization of workshops for the countries in transition.

PROGRAMME OF WORKSHOPS

20. The most visible response of the ECE to the provisions of decisions D (45), O (45), B (46) and D (47) has been the programme of workshops. The programme's usefulness and relevance have been underscored by the recent admission to the ECE of a significant number of countries in transition. In the past year ECE membership has risen from 34 to 44 countries, including 17 with economies in transition. In addition ECE member States have welcomed the applications of five new countries in transition which are likely to be admitted to the ECE in the course of 1993. As a result, countries in transition will shortly account for 45% of ECE membership. In response to the growing needs of these countries the ECE programme of workshops was launched in May 1990.

21. The primary objective of the programme has been to provide an informal forum for discussion of those aspects of the transition process which are of immediate concern to the economies in transition. It has sought to provide timely and practical assistance to Governments seeking to adjust their institutions, policies and methods to conform to the needs of an economic

society whose basic decisions are determined by markets rather than by command.

22. The themes chosen for the workshops correspond closely to those listed in decision O (45), such as privatization, restructuring of state enterprises, the promotion of SMEs, trade and investment, promotion of foreign direct investments, industrial upgrading, managing new technologies, sustainable development, pricing policies, efficient use of energy, quality control, development of housing markets and the adaptation of transport enterprises. For more detailed information delegations should consult the quarterly list of workshops issued by the secretariat and the two workshop summary issues contained in ECE/INFO/1/92 and ECE/INFO/3/92.

23. Since the programme began a total of 74 workshops have been held mainly in the sectors of energy, transport, statistics, human settlements, industrial development and agriculture and timber and, to a lesser extent, in trade, environment and economic analysis. A measure of the success of the workshop programme is the continuously growing demand placed on the ECE secretariat for assistance in organizing such events. Nine were held in 1990, 28 in 1991, 34 in 1992 and 53 are currently under preparation for 1993 and 1994. They usually include on the one hand governmental experts and experts of international institutions, and in some cases decision-makers, and on the other hand private sector and industry representatives as well as members of the academic community. In addition to the discussion of key topics, the workshops also provide an opportunity for valuable contacts between governmental officials as well as representatives of industry and the business community. To a large extent the effectiveness of the workshops depends upon the correct choice of participants, a decision which rests largely with member Governments in consultation with the secretariat. That choice should be made in the knowledge that the workshops are intended to provide an active dialogue between western and eastern experts rather than a passive transfer of information.

24. To the extent possible the workshops are held in the countries in transition. This enables a wider audience in those countries to benefit from the meetings and makes it easier to target end-users. Fifty-three workshops have to date been hosted by countries in transition, with 14 in Romania, 11 in Hungary and 12 in the former Czechoslovakia. Others have been held in Belarus, Bulgaria, Poland and Russia. In all, 16 countries have hosted workshops. Albania, Slovenia and Ukraine as well as Turkey, Cyprus, Malta and Israel are preparing to host workshops in 1993 or 1994. Although more difficult to organize and generally more costly, workshops held in market-economy countries prove effective in providing first-hand information on how matters are run in a market environment. In such cases the workshops can be combined with study tours.

25. One of the keys to the success of the programme has been its flexibility, in responding quickly and effectively to the special needs of the countries in transition. Nonetheless the methods used are governed largely by the guidelines established by the Commission. The themes chosen are practical and specific. Their topicality is assured since they focus on subjects pertinent to the real needs of the countries in transition. In most cases the initiative to hold a workshop is taken by a host Government which exercises a

decisive influence on the topic chosen. They are thus demand-driven and not imposed by other Governments or by the secretariat.

26. Since the major responsibility for organizing workshops rests with the host Government, the secretariat plays a supporting role. It acts as a match-maker in bringing together the host Government, potential sponsors and expert speakers, and provides substantive backstopping for the meetings. It also gives essential support to the preparations of the workshops, assists in the elaboration of concept and programme, and helps the host Government to formulate conclusions, recommendations and reports of the meeting. Experience has shown that most workshops have required considerable technical input from the secretariat.

27. The workshops are timely in the sense that they can be organized at short notice – unlike formal meetings – while the issue is still being addressed. They are useful inasmuch as they are of topical interest to the parties actually dealing with the issue and provide answers to the questions of end-users, including policy-makers, in the countries in transition. As informal meetings they are free from the set procedures of United Nations meetings with agendas, slow calendars, full language services, extensive documentation and high meeting-costs. This freedom also leaves room for imaginative approaches to meet needs with limited resources. The workshops are brief, lasting usually no more than two days, thus economizing on the time of governmental and non-governmental participants. To ensure the most effective use of the limited time, discussion focuses on a limited number of topics and, wherever possible, small working groups are set up to increase the sense of involvement of the participants. For these many reasons they are economical in making effective use of very limited resources.

28. Every effort has also been made to ensure close cooperation wherever possible with other international organizations and institutions in the region; ten have already participated in the programme, some on several occasions (OECD, CEC, including EUROSTAT, UNDP, WHO, IMF, GATT, ITC, UNIDO, UNCHS). This approach helps to avoid duplication of work already organized in other fora.

29. A special feature of the workshops is that they attract a mixed audience of end-users. In general, the host organizers are responsible for selecting and inviting the audience. While the majority of participants are from the host country, most workshops are intended to draw an audience from as many countries in transition as possible, as well as from a number of developed market-economy countries. Attendance ranges from 30 to 100 participants, depending upon the type and purpose of the workshop.

30. While in certain sectors workshops have been organized systematically, focusing on related themes and occasionally with a "roving" workshop repeated in several countries, the same is less true in other sectors where there has been less direct linkage between workshop themes. It must be noted that, as indicated above, the decision to hold a workshop and the definition of its theme is demand-driven and is not necessarily tied directly to the Commission's programme of work and calendar of events, although they do as a rule relate to the work under way in the respective Principal Subsidiary

Bodies. The flexibility of the programme of workshops, including the choice of topic, its treatment and its timing, is one of its principal strengths.

31. The absence of reliable sources of funding for the programme has meant that it is not possible to plan workshops in a more systematic fashion. Each workshop proposal has entailed a search for funds and donors, and only those which have been successful in attracting funds have taken place. Although this number is considerable, it has been an improvised process with a significant degree of random selection. A sounder financial basis for the programme would also enhance its coherence.

32. As indicated above, the funding of workshops has come from many and varied sources. Nonetheless, the major burden has fallen on the countries in transition themselves, which could have expected to be beneficiaries of the programme. They have sometimes been supported by grants from local authorities and/or industries. Bilateral contributions in cash or kind from Government and private sponsors in market-economy countries have also been made. In a few cases funding for participants from countries in transition has been made available by international organizations. A small number of ECE Governments have also contributed funds to assist the programme.

33. The transition countries' lack of funds in general, and of hard currency in particular, has made it exceedingly difficult for them to host workshops and to finance the participation of their representatives. The Commission's decision not to use ECE regular budgetary resources for the programme has also created difficulties for the participation of the secretariat. While in some cases it has proved possible to attract sponsors, this may become more difficult as bilateral or multilateral assistance programmes run by western Governments and other international organizations become more established. They provide funds which are often earmarked and therefore not available to support ECE activities. Moreover the growing need for financial support to enable countries in transition to attend regular ECE meetings creates further competition for scarce resources. In 1992 a number of countries in transition, especially new member States, experienced growing difficulty in attending ECE regular meetings.

34. In the belief that the integration of the countries of central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union that are in transition to a market economy into the international community depends to a considerable extent upon their capacity to participate in the meetings of international organizations such as the ECE, the secretariat has established a UN/ECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition. In doing so the secretariat was mindful of Commission resolution 1 (1992-S) in which member States expressed their conviction that it was necessary to ensure that all ECE member States could participate fully and effectively in the work of ECE.

35. The Trust Fund provides a channel through which Governments, international organizations, institutions and other donors may contribute funds to help the countries in transition and newly independent States to defray the costs of their participation in ECE meetings, including its programme of workshops. Donors may indicate the specific area of work, activities, meetings or purposes for which they wish their contribution to be

earmarked within the broad framework of the Fund, or the country or countries for which the contribution is intended.

36. The secretariat carefully matches the requests for assistance received from countries in transition with the funds contributed, taking into account the conditions set by donors. It arranges for the issuance of travel authorizations, tickets and local cost vouchers as appropriate. It does so either directly with the requesting authority in the country concerned or through the Permanent Mission in Geneva. The opening of the UN/ECE Trust Fund is intended to relieve donors of the considerable work involved in matching requests with available donations, issuing travel documents, making payments and maintaining accounts.

37. To date contributions to the Fund have been received from Canada, Norway and Sweden. The Canadian contribution is earmarked for workshops in the sectors of environment, energy and forestry, while the other contributions are for ECE work in the field of environment. To supplement the ECE Trust Fund the Commission of the European Communities has also pledged 20,000 ecus to support the participation of countries in transition in the programme of workshops.

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

38. The relatively short period since May 1990 during which workshops have been organized, and the limited number held in any one sector or country, makes it difficult to draw more than preliminary conclusions for the programme at this time. Compared to other avenues for channelling assistance to the economies in transition, workshops have proved to be less costly and time consuming. Their informality permits a "tailor-made" response to perceived needs and target audiences.

39. Generally the workshops have been well received by the countries in transition, as is evidenced from participation and the requests received for future workshops. Some 53 are under discussion or being planned for the next two years. Nine countries which have not done so before have offered to host workshops. Particularly encouraging is the fact that countries which have already hosted a number of workshops are willing to do so again despite the costs involved.

40. Attention must also be paid to the need to ensure that the right persons are designated to attend the workshops. It is important that participants be from public or private sectors and agencies which actually deal with the issues under discussion, rather than that they attend in a representational capacity. This is especially true if a request is made for financial assistance for their participation.

41. As the programme evolves however a mechanism for the systematic evaluation of the impact of workshops, their carry-over to other ECE activities, their products in terms of case studies, reports and recommendations, their overall benefits for individual countries in transition and for that group of countries as a whole becomes a necessity. The secretariat holds regular meetings among staff responsible for the workshops during which the evaluation of meetings held and the organization of

forthcoming meetings is discussed. These meetings will be developed into a regular evaluation process, which will be conducted in close consultation with the bureaux of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies. The secretariat will report periodically to the Ad Hoc Informal Meetings of the Commission on the findings and recommendations emerging from this process.

42. In their assessment of the workshops, representatives of countries in transition have expressed satisfaction with the results achieved, noting that they have been instrumental in analysing specific problems and providing possible solutions. They have at the same time expressed special interest in pursuing further steps of practical assistance either as a direct follow-up to issues raised in the workshops or as different means of tackling other urgent practical problems. This expanded form of assistance could take two forms.

43. Firstly the ECE programme of workshops could be complemented by expert advisory services. This would entail missions to individual countries in transition by an expert or a small team of experts in very specific topics identified by the countries in transition or during the workshops. These services would cover such topics as the development of EDIFACT, transport infrastructure, energy conservation, low- and non-waste technology and low-cost housing. The missions would aim to bring western experts face to face with national experts and policy-makers. An increase in the number of regional advisers (see paragraph 13 above) redeployed from UN Headquarters to the ECE would be of great benefit in this context. The ECE secretariat could also play a significant role in developing a roster of experts from various sources, including volunteers from amongst its intergovernmental bodies, its former staff and consultants and through such programmes as UN Volunteers, UNDP/UNISTAR and TOKTEN. Short-term secondments of ECE staff to the integrated UN country offices in the countries in transition, with the financial support of UNDP, could also be envisaged. ECE could also serve as a clearing-house in assessing and securing the services of experts for advisory missions in close cooperation with United Nations programmes such as DESD, ITC, UNIDO and UNDP.

44. Secondly, the ECE could arrange for and assist in training courses for nationals of countries in transition, again focusing on issues identified by those countries or emerging from workshops. While not a vocational training centre, the ECE secretariat could provide technical back-stopping for such programmes as has already been the case in such areas as the management of joint ventures, the use of new technologies, human settlements, the steel industry and energy, where training topics have figured among the outputs of workshops and other ECE meetings. This form of training could also include retraining associated with the restructuring of industries and the training of trainers to reinforce national capacity building in the countries in transition. Such training could take place in established training centres preferably in the countries in transition. The ECE secretariat could also assist in finding the trainers either from United Nations organizations (such as the ILO, ITC, UNIDO, UNCHS, etc.), other institutions or member Governments with expertise in training or from the private sector.

45. Steps must also be taken to familiarize new ECE member States with the work of international organizations in general and of the ECE in particular. Despite efforts by the secretariat to transmit to their capitals documentation

and correspondence concerning the work of the Commission, progress in incorporating them into ECE activities has been slow. In some cases members of the secretariat have visited these countries and disseminated information about their sector. There is however a need for a more extensive systematic briefing for these Governments on the ECE programme of work as a whole and the functioning of the Commission. The secretariat therefore proposes to organize a symposium for the new members of the Commission for the purpose of informing them more thoroughly of the work of ECE and the benefits they can derive from participation in these activities. Government support for the symposium would be essential.

46. There is also a growing need for a coordinated approach to the United Nations' provision of assistance to the countries in transition. Currently many of these countries are receiving aid assistance from various sources which exceeds their absorptive capacity and which often does not correspond to their needs. The ECE could be considered as the focal point within the United Nations for the coordination of the programme of assistance to the countries in transition in the region.

47. While strong efforts have been made to encourage cooperation with other international organizations in running the programme, experience shows that other fora continue to hold meetings on similar subjects in the countries of the ECE region. It is therefore essential that at both the governmental and secretariat levels cooperation with other organizations be intensified in the organization of workshops.

48. Commission resolution 1 (1992-S) on the strengthening of the ECE adopted on 5 October 1992 stressed the need to explore ways and means of releasing and obtaining adequate resources for the ECE programme in favour of the countries in transition. The current wish of member States that ECE regular budgetary resources should not be used for the workshops has meant that the programme is entirely dependent upon extra-budgetary resources. The secretariat has little experience and time for fund raising. The management of the programme to date has resulted from impromptu and spontaneous actions as referred to above on the occasion of each workshop to provide essential funds without which the programme cannot proceed. The increased membership of the Commission and the difficult conditions in the new member States create new challenges for, and make new demands upon, the workshop programme. Every encouragement should be given to member Governments, international organizations and institutions, as well as other potential donors, to contribute to the ECE Trust Fund established for this purpose. With that in mind, delegations may wish to hold consultations with the participation of the secretariat to discuss ways in which ECE activities in favour of the countries in transition and the facilities of the Trust Fund could be enhanced in order to attract more contributions in cash or in kind to support the ECE programme.

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(Provisional Agenda item 4)

Activities of the Economic Commission for Europe to implement the pertinent provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and other CSCE documents, including the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Helsinki Document 1992

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. This Report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 2 of Commission decision A (47) and paragraph 13 of decision G (47). As requested in decision A (47), the Executive Secretary accepted the invitation to contribute to the Helsinki 1992 follow-up meeting, and to attend the CSCE Summit on 9 and 10 July 1993.

2. The information in this paper is presented in two parts:
Part I gives an account of ECE activities which have been carried out or are planned to implement the provisions of the CSCE Helsinki Document adopted in July 1992, both:

A : the Helsinki Summit Declaration, and

B : the Helsinki Decisions.

Part II lists ECE activities relating to the three items contained in the provisional agenda for the CSCE Economic Forum to be held in Prague from 16 to 18 March 1993.

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PART I : **Possible implications for the work of the ECE of the Helsinki Document 1992: The Challenges of Change** 1/

A. **THE HELSINKI SUMMIT DECLARATION:** Promises and problems of change

3. The emergence of a number of sovereign States and their full participation brings a new dimension to the CSCE (para. 5). The same applies to the UN/ECE with respect to the scope of its membership, which has increased from 34 to 44 countries over the past year, with an additional five applications pending from former Soviet republics in Transcaucasia and Central Asia. This increase has had an impact on the substantive work which has had to take into account the priority needs of the new member States and help to integrate them into the process of multilateral economic cooperation.

4. The support for the transition of the new democracies to a market economy and their integration into the wider community of States and the European and global economies (para. 9), reflects closely the UN/ECE decisions on activities designed to assist countries in transition to a market economy.

5. The UN/ECE is mentioned (para. 10) as one of the three international economic institutions which have a key role to play in the construction of a new Europe. This reaffirms its importance as a region-wide forum for dialogue and economic cooperation, as well as its continuous interaction with the CSCE process since 1975.

6. The CSCE reaffirmed its commitment to the United Nations Charter and declared its understanding that the CSCE was a regional arrangement in the sense of Chapter VIII of the Charter (para. 25 and para. IV(2) of the Helsinki Decisions). The Helsinki Document was transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to its circulation as an official document and an item was included in the agenda of the General Assembly entitled "Coordination of the activities of the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe" (document A/47/192). This demonstrates the intention of the CSCE Participating States to develop a closer relationship with the United Nations system as a whole.

7. The Participating States renewed their commitment to cooperation in protecting and improving the environment for present and future generations, welcomed the important outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and emphasized the need for effective and sustained implementation of UNCED decisions (para. 32). The UN/ECE participated actively in the preparatory work for UNCED, notably in the organization of the Bergen Conference in May 1990, one specific result of which was the UN/ECE project Energy Efficiency 2000. The secretariat submitted a written contribution to UNCED as well as a compendium of ECE conventions in the field of environment, and the conclusions of the High-level Meeting on Cooperation and Sustainable Development in the Chemical Industry which was organized in

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1/ Paragraph references in brackets throughout Part I refer to the published text of the Helsinki Document 1992.

cooperation with the European Chemical Industry Council. The Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems are considering possible follow-up to the UNCED in the region (see paras. 24-28 below).

8. The relevance for the Mediterranean region of changes taking place in Europe was recognized (paras. 37-39) and Participating States agreed to widen their cooperation with the States of that region as a means to promote social and economic development. The UN/ECE has regularly adopted a decision since 1975 on work to promote economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act (see paras. 29-34 below).

B. HELSINKI DECISIONS

Chapter IV: Relations with international organizations; relations with non-participating States; role of non-governmental organizations

9. The decisions of the CSCE Council Meeting on Further Development of CSCE Institutions and Structures, held in Prague in January 1992 (Prague Document), to improve contact and practical cooperation with appropriate international organizations, were recalled (para. 3). The Participating States may accordingly agree (paras. 4 and 5) to invite presentations by those international organizations, as appropriate, and those organizations may be invited to attend CSCE meetings and seminars. The UN/ECE has always responded to invitations to participate in CSCE meetings and to submit substantive contributions.

10. The intention to make full use of the information exchange under paragraph 44 of the Prague Document was reaffirmed (para. 6) and this exchange has already begun between UN/ECE and CSCE.

Chapter VII: Economic cooperation

11. The Participating States welcomed (para. 2) the fact that, in response to the Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Cooperation and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the UN/ECE had identified priority areas for its activities and considered the promotion of the process of reform in the economies in transition to be important in the preparation of its work programme. Pursuant to several Commission decisions the secretariat has been instrumental in developing an extensive major programme of workshops to address transition issues.

12. Participating States invited international organizations active in this field, including UN/ECE, to pursue their work so as to facilitate the integration of the economies in transition into the international economic and financial system and to promote economic cooperation in the CSCE area. They called for increased coordination among them to ensure greater coherence and effectiveness of action and to avoid duplication (para. 3). The UN/ECE secretariat has continued and intensified its cooperation and coordination with its major partners in the region in response to previous Commission decisions.

13. The Participating States agreed to give renewed impetus in particular in the areas of human resources, industrial cooperation, trade, statistics,

infrastructure, energy, defence conversion, agriculture, tourism, and science and technology (para. 4). UN/ECE is active in most of these areas.

14. The need was recognized to enhance opportunities for industrial cooperation by providing an appropriate legal and economic environment for business, particularly with the aim of strengthening the private sector and developing small and medium-sized enterprises (para. 6). The UN/ECE Committee on the Development of Trade has published guides on the legal aspects of joint ventures, privatization and foreign direct investment in the economies in transition. Its Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry is preparing a guide on the legal aspects of financing economic transactions with these countries. The secretariat has prepared an analysis of the policies used to favour the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in the economies in transition.

15. The importance of comprehensive, transparent and reliable statistics and commercial and administrative information was stressed as a basis for policy making, and in particular for economic decision making as well as for the efficient operation of a market economy. The valuable role of the UN/ECE in this field was recognized (para. 8). The Conference of European Statisticians has been in the forefront of efforts to assist countries in adapting their statistical systems to a market-economy approach.

16. The importance of the development of infrastructure, especially in the transport and telecommunications sectors, for a successful transition period and a greater share in international trade was emphasized (para. 9). Infrastructure agreements such as the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR), the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) and the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC), developed under the auspices of the UN/ECE, are the only all-European transport infrastructure networks so far approved by Governments and represent a sound basis for such development. Preparations for an inland-waterway network are under way. UN/ECE's work in the field of trade facilitation, especially the development of electronic data interchange standards (UN/EDIFACT) for that purpose, also deserve mention since these standards are rapidly becoming global in both their development and application. Their use brings significant advantages to the governmental and business sectors in terms of cost savings, speed and rationalization of procedures. The UN/ECE also cooperated with ITU in the staging of EURO TELECOM 92 (Budapest, October 1992), in particular the related Economic Forum.

17. The Participating States agreed to cooperate to improve the efficiency and quality of transport by land, water and air and to develop an efficient transport system based on the principles of the market economy, safety and transparent and fully competitive conditions among operators and different modes of transport with due consideration for the environment and social aspects. They stressed the importance of further development and early completion of joint road and rail infrastructure projects including those being undertaken by the UN/ECE and UNDP, namely the TEM and TER projects (para. 10).

18. They expressed their full support for the further development of the European Energy Charter and the Basic Agreement and protocols (para. 13). The

UN/ECE Committee on Energy expressed its willingness to contribute to the implementation of the Charter, inter alia in the field of energy efficiency given the importance and success of its Energy Efficiency 2000 Project. The importance of existing international programmes such as Energy Efficiency 2000 was recognized as an example of cooperation in the energy sector designed to improve the security of energy supply and maximize the efficiency of production, conversion, transport, distribution and use of energy (para. 14).

19. The importance of agricultural reforms carried out in certain economies in transition was stressed and Participating States agreed to extend their cooperation in sharing agricultural production expertise, including issues of privatization, cooperation and training in the agricultural and food industries (para. 16). In 1991 UN/ECE organized a Study Tour in Hungary on the Food and Food-machinery Industry: Privatization and International Cooperation, and issued a study on the food-processing industry. A workshop was held in 1992 in Hungary on the transformation of collective farms into market-oriented units, and others in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic on harmonization of national standards and inspection procedures to meet international standards. Reference should also be made to UN/ECE's work together with FAO and ILO on the training of forest workers on which a workshop will be held in 1993 or 1994. A workshop was held in Germany in 1992 on privatization in forestry and the forest industries.

20. The essential role of science and technology in the process of economic and social development was reaffirmed (para. 18) and Participating States agreed to give priority to areas of direct concern to their populations and to their production systems including environmental research, biomedicine and health research, nuclear safety, energy and raw material saving techniques, agro- and food-processing technologies as well as measurement and testing techniques, in order to facilitate the progressive introduction of international standards and codes of good practice to support the development of trade. The UN/ECE is active in many of these areas. The Senior Advisers on Science and Technology maintain an inventory of Governments' safety guidelines in biotechnology. Three workshops were organized on rehabilitation engineering as the UN/ECE contribution to the UN Decade of Disabled Persons and a publication will be issued on the outcome of those workshops.

21. The Participating States agreed to take steps towards a greater sharing, where appropriate, of scientific and technological information and knowledge to overcome the technological gap, and recognized that the transfer of technology and exchange of up-to-date know-how should be consistent with non-proliferation obligations and the protection of intellectual property rights (para. 19). In September 1992 the Senior Advisers on Science and Technology carried out their quadrennial review of major changes in overall national science and technology policies, including those relating to international cooperation.

22. Paragraphs 21 to 32 of the Helsinki Decisions cover the Economic Forum established within the framework of the Council of Senior Officials. The Chairman of the UN/ECE wrote to the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole of the CSCE Helsinki Follow-up Meeting on 29 June 1992 to convey the support of ECE member Governments for the strengthening of cooperation and coordination of work between the UN/ECE and the CSCE and for implementing the

recommendations of the CSCE efficiently within available resources. In his letter he noted that the Forum was to be convened to give political stimulus to the dialogue on the transition to and development of free market economies as an essential contribution to the building of democracy, to suggest practical efforts for the development of free market systems and economic cooperation, and to encourage activities already under way within organizations such as UN/ECE.

23. Ever since the adoption of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975 the UN/ECE has served as a key instrument for the multilateral implementation of the CSCE provisions and recommendations in the fields of economy, environment and science and technology. It expects to make a positive contribution to the first meeting of the Economic Forum (Prague, 16-18 March 1993).

Chapter VIII: Environment

24. The Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems, in March 1993, will consider the development of more systematic implementation and verification of ECE conventions in the field of environment, taking account in particular of the problems of member countries in transition, thus responding to the need identified by the CSCE to develop in the appropriate fora efficient systems for monitoring and evaluation of compliance with existing environmental commitments (para. 2). The Senior Advisers are expected to elaborate, in close coordination with OECD, a programme for environmental performance reviews for member Governments which are non-members of OECD.

25. Conscious of the need to enable CSCE Participating States to adhere to relevant environmental conventions, the Senior Advisers continue to promote activities under each Convention to facilitate adherence in particular by new member countries and by those in transition. Meetings of Signatories or meetings convened for the interim implementation of the Conventions are open-ended. Under the 1992 Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents fact-finding missions are being organized also to countries which have not yet adhered to the Convention to encourage them to do so.

26. In the light of decisions taken by the Signatories to the Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, points of contact are being designated by Governments for industrial-accident notification and for mutual assistance in the event of an industrial accident and information is analysed regarding policies and strategies for the prevention of, preparedness for, and response to industrial accidents. Experience gained with past industrial accidents is examined (para. 12).

27. Conscious of the importance of integrating environmental protection with other policies and with the economic decision-making process as an essential condition for the achievement of sustainable development, the Commission has adopted sustainable development as a guiding principle for all its activities. The integration of environmental and sectoral policies is promoted by the Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics established by the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems and the Senior Economic Advisers. The Senior Advisers are expected to draw up recommendations for action by the Commission as a follow-up to UNCED.

28. The Senior Advisers are contributing to the preparation of the Conference on "Environment for Europe" to be organized in Lucerne by the Government of Switzerland in April 1993 (para. 4).

Chapter X: Mediterranean

29. The Participating States recognized that the changes which have taken place in Europe are relevant to the Mediterranean region and, conversely, that economic, social, political and security developments in that region can have a bearing on Europe (para. 1).

30. A CSCE Mediterranean Seminar will be convened to consider topics such as environment, demographic trends and economic development (paras. 4 and 6). The UN/ECE is active in all these areas.

31. Since 1976 UN/ECE has regularly adopted a decision to promote economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Helsinki Final Act. In response to the latest of these decisions (G (47)), the Executive Secretary has continued his cooperation with the Executive Secretaries of the other relevant regional commissions and United Nations bodies, and pursued contacts with Mediterranean countries not members of the Commission on subjects of common interest. The subsidiary bodies of the Commission have continued to consider effective means of economic cooperation in the Mediterranean region. Other UN/ECE activities relevant to the provisions of decision G (47) are described below.

32. The direct interest of transport to the countries of the Mediterranean region is served by the Transport Study Centres in Barcelona and Volos and the Transport Training Centre in Istanbul. The work of these centres forms a valuable input to the programme of the Inland Transport Committee. The study under way of a permanent link across the Strait of Gibraltar is another activity of interest to the countries of this region to which the ECE makes a direct contribution in cooperation with the ECA, at the request of ECOSOC.

33. The Conference of European Statisticians organized a seminar for the statistical offices of all countries of the Mediterranean region in Palermo (Italy) in October 1992 which focused on cooperation between those countries on environment, tourism, and migration statistics. The Meeting of Experts on Human Settlements Problems in Southern Europe (Seville, October 1992) focused on the theme "Urban design and architecture with respect to Mediterranean climate and sustainable development" (HBP/GE.2/27).

34. Information on the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme (METAP) and the Mediterranean Special Programme of Action (MEDSPA), together with information on the progress made under these programmes, is reported to the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems each year in the update report on Bilateral and multilateral financial cooperation in the ECE region of relevance to environmental protection (1992 update: ENVWA/R.64/Rev.1). With respect to the "protection and amelioration of the Mediterranean ecosystem" (para. 2 of G (47)) the Senior Advisers will review in 1993 draft guidelines on an ecosystems approach to water management.

PART II

UN/ECE activities relating to the provisional agenda of the CSCE Economic Forum

35. The first meeting of the CSCE Economic Forum will be held in Prague from 16 to 18 March 1993. The mandate, the organization and the functions of the Economic Forum are contained in paragraphs 21-32 of Chapter VII (Economic cooperation) of the Helsinki decisions.

36. The mandate states that the purpose of the Forum is to give political stimulus to the dialogue on the transition to and the development of free market economies, "to suggest practical efforts for the development of free market systems and economic cooperation" and "to encourage activities already under way in OECD, EIB, EBRD and UN/ECE". In the section dealing with the organization of the Forum it stipulates that contributions by the above-mentioned organizations will be requested. Reference is made to the possible convening of open-ended seminars to consider specific steps, to be attended by experts and to be organized by one or more CSCE State[s] and/or an international organization, possibly in cooperation with private organizations.

37. The section dealing with functions indicates that the Forum will provide for the exchange of views and experience on the transition process, including relevant work in the international organizations and that the Forum will serve as a mechanism for the review of the extent to which CSCE commitments in the areas of economics, environment and science and technology have been carried out. It also makes it plain that the political impulses expected of the Forum in those three fields will complement and support the work of international organizations.

38. The indicative agenda for the first meeting of the Forum lists three key issues of the transition process. The Commission may wish to take into account the following activities of the UN/ECE in considering these three items.

Agenda item 1: The key elements of a favourable business climate in the light of the provisions of the Document of the Bonn Conference, including the protection of all types of property and with particular emphasis on the place and role of public policy

39. Chapter 6 of the UN/ECE's Economic Survey of Europe in 1991-1992 contained a review of various property rights concepts and the need to establish unambiguous property rights for the functioning of the market economy. It also discussed privatization as an item of transition policy, the motives and objectives of privatization, obstacles to privatization, mechanisms of privatization, lessons from the experience with privatization to date and the agenda for the near term.

40. In 1991 the Committee on the Development of Trade prepared a study on Promoting Foreign Direct Investment in the ECE Region (TRADE/R.572) which, inter alia, analysed the problems of property markets and privatization. In

1992 the secretariat prepared a study on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the ECE Region (TRADE/R.586).

41. In 1992 a Guide on Legal Aspects of Privatization in Industry was published. A study on Privatization and Foreign Investment in the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe: Legal Aspects will be published in spring 1993. Work is also under way on a Guide on the Financing of East-West Trade/Privatization in Central and Eastern Europe. The UN/ECE Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry (which prepared this material) is the only United Nations body currently addressing the legal problems arising in the process of transition.

42. The UN/ECE quarterly East-West Investment News monitors and analyses the legislation and other regulations pertaining to foreign investment and the activities of companies with foreign participation in the economies in transition.

43. Protection of property issues will be on the agenda of the UN/ECE workshop on the promotion of foreign direct investment to be held in Ljubljana (Slovenia) in 1993.

44. The Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies are reviewing the place and role of the State in connection with the restructuring of the transport sector in line with market principles. Privatization in road transport has a direct impact on the property issue. A legal framework has to be set up for the decentralization of road transport activities, to permit autonomous functioning of road transport enterprises. The region has witnessed a greater emphasis on marketing in road transport and improved access of central and east European road-forwarding companies to western Europe, in particular the countries of the European Community.

45. In the rail sector the relationship between the State and railways is under review, including the need for a clear definition of their respective responsibilities. Governments and railways have to determine together the objectives to be achieved by the railway management. The railways will seek compensation from local/national/regional government for providing unprofitable services, as well as relief from inherited debts.

46. The UN/ECE bodies in the industry sector have taken up the question of industrial policy which has come to be seen as a cornerstone of the process of reform in the economies in transition. This requires a clear understanding of, and agreement on, the role of Governments in encouraging market forces in industrial restructuring. Under current conditions in central and eastern Europe this role differs from that played by Governments in the past. It is also different from the role which Governments play in established market economies where market mechanisms are already in place.

47. In order to promote a wider understanding of the many problems faced by industries in the transition period and to provide Governments and enterprises with up-to-date information and fresh ideas, a number of workshops, meetings and seminars dealing with topics of direct interest to the economies in transition have been held within the framework of the UN/ECE, e.g. a workshop in Budapest (Hungary) in October 1992 on industrial policies in the economies

in transition attracted 85 participants from 12 countries in transition, 10 western countries and 5 international organizations. A synthesis report on the conclusions will be issued and a further workshop on selected industrial policy issues will be held in Hungary in 1993.

48. For most manufacturing industries in countries in transition, adapting to more stringent international and west European standards presents a serious challenge. Yet it is an absolute necessity in order to gain access to western markets. A series of workshops on quality control and conformity assessment has been organized in the countries in transition. Recommendations on metrology in testing and conformity assessment are under preparation and will contribute to achieving the CSCE objective of mutual recognition of certification and testing arrangements.

49. The mandate of the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project is to enhance trade and cooperation in energy-efficient, environmentally sound technology and services between market economies and those economies in transition from central planning. This involves trade promotion activities and business information services provided at commercial trade fairs. The project activity for the establishment of Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones also provides direct business opportunities, including negotiations on ownership of buildings and factories rehabilitated for energy efficiency using western technology.

Agenda item 2: The human factors of the economic transition process, with emphasis on the development of human capital, including vocational and professional training and technical training, the development of managerial skills, fostering an entrepreneurial spirit, and working conditions

50. In the field of trade the UN/ECE has prepared for publication the Guide on Management Requirements and Management Training which focuses on training of managers for enterprises with foreign participation. In 1992 a workshop was organized with the Italian Institute of Foreign Trade on the management of east-west joint ventures, which was attended by some 100 participants.

51. In the transport sector measures have been elaborated to improve working conditions for crews of vehicles engaged in international road transport and for greater road transport safety.

52. In the energy sector a training workshop was held in Bucharest in October 1992 on "Electricity producer-user relations". The Energy Efficiency 2000 Project work on Demonstration Zones will involve training for energy-efficiency management services, design and use of equipment.

53. The UN/ECE workshop programme in general provides assistance to the economies in transition in all sectors of the economy, and makes it possible for central and east European experts to become acquainted with experience gained in market economies. A proposal has been made to extend the programme to include advisory services which would include bilateral visits of experts from eastern and western countries, and the organization of training courses and seminars on specific issues, as well as the provision of technical documentation.

Agenda item 3: Integrating economic and environmental factors during the transition to market economies

54. The activities of the Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics is an example of a cross-sectoral approach to the integration of economic and environmental factors, including those affecting the economies in transition. Experts representing the two fields of activity consider issues related to various aspects of sustainable economic development, such as the assessment of the situation in the economies in transition, the impact of economic restructuring on the environment, various costing techniques for environmental policies and the use of economic instruments for furthering environmental goals. Other bodies such as the Committee on Energy will cooperate on an ad hoc basis with the Joint Working Group.

55. Measures are being considered to ensure the application of UN/ECE transport conventions and agreements in an attempt to mitigate the negative environmental impact of transport operations in areas such as combined transport, the transport of dangerous goods and the construction of vehicles.

56. The Committee on the Development of Trade considered a paper (TRADE/R.597) which addressed the environmental issues in multilateral trade agreements and suggested topics for future work. Environmental problems relating to privatization and foreign direct investment are also analysed in East-West Investment News.

57. In the energy sector a study on sustainable energy developments in Europe and North America was published in 1991. Issues relating to the countries in transition were dealt with in greater detail in the 1991 publication on Energy Reforms in Central and Eastern Europe - the First Year.

58. Within the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project work has focused not only on methods of enhancing environmental quality in central and eastern Europe, but also on the importance of greater energy efficiency during the transition process. Work is under way to encourage the best use of scarce domestic energy resources, rationalize investments in energy systems, enhance the security of energy supplies and reduce harmful SO_2 and NO_x emissions from the burning of lignite and brown coal. Compensation trade based on commodity loans is helping to finance energy-efficiency investments in central and eastern Europe with repayment in the form of gas and oil "savings" added to existing energy export contracts. A Symposium on Energy Efficiency and Economic Transition in Central and Eastern Europe will be held in Paris in May 1993.

59. In particular in the larger state-owned enterprises in central and eastern Europe, technologies are still in use which are excessively energy- and resource-intensive. These enterprises are also frequently major polluters of the environment. Special attention will have to be paid to the problems of sustainable development in the restructuring of these industries. A High-Level Meeting on Cooperation and Sustainable Development in the Chemical Industry was held in Warsaw (Poland) in March 1992 in response to the various CSCE provisions and in particular to the Meeting on the Protection of the Environment (Sofia, 1989). The meeting provided a substantive contribution to the UNCED and also an opportunity for Governments, senior executives of

chemical companies, industry associations and international organizations to discuss issues of common concern and to foster cooperation.

60. Seminars on standards for environmental protection and on energy efficiency standards and labelling systems have been organized and the UN/ECE, together with the industries in question, will examine issues of recycling and use of recycled materials aimed at disseminating know-how and developing harmonized technical procedures and product quality standards.

61. Operating within a free market economy involves exposure to world market conditions. To meet this challenge the support of experienced industries is necessary. In the field of industrial cooperation the primary responsibility rests with the companies concerned, but Governments can assist by creating a positive climate for investment, innovation and international trade. Meetings of governmental experts in the industry and technology field have taken up the question of how best to achieve this.

62. The work of the Timber Committee, carried out with the FAO, includes activities of direct relevance to the Seminar on Sustainable Development of Boreal and Temperate Forests currently under consideration by the CSCE.

63. In considering topics for seminars to be convened within the framework of the Economic Forum, the Participating States may wish to consider the list of UN/ECE workshops for countries in transition planned for 1993-1994.

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THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE RESOURCES FOR THE SERVICING OF THE PRIORITY SECTORS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

1. This note has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 6 of decision B (47). In accordance with the same paragraph the decision was transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 16 April 1992. Copies of the decision were sent to the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and to other senior officers of the Department.

2. Since the adoption of decision B (47) the following three ECE posts in the Professional category have been filled as exceptions to the temporary suspension of recruitment introduced by the Secretary General on 6 February 1992:

Director, Statistical Division (D-1)
Chief, Trade Facilitation Section, Trade Division (P-5)
Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Section (P-4)

3. The following four posts at the P-2 level have been filled by succesful candidates from competitive examinations held before the introduction of the recruitment freeze:

Associate Statistician, Statistical Division (P-2)
Editor, Environment and Human Settlements Division (P-2)
Associate Programmer, Trade Facilitation Section, Trade Division (P-2)
Editor, Industry and Technology Division (P-2)

4. The following three posts have been filled through lateral transfers of staff from other UN programmes:

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Statistician, Statistical Division (P-3)
Associate Statistician, Statistical Division (P-2)
Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Division for Economic Analysis and Projections (P-2)

5. On 21 October 1992 the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management announced a new policy for the treatment of vacant Professional posts. This entails the central review by Headquarters of all vacant posts in order to determine their most efficient use. Each programme manager is required to provide substantive justification for the maintenance of vacant posts where they are budgeted. The absence of adequate justification could result in the redeployment of the post to other programmes or a continuing freeze of the vacancy.

6. On 12 November 1992 the ECE submitted a list of current vacancies for central review. On 24 December 1992 the Department for Administration and Management notified the ECE that all its recommendations to retain current vacancies in their respective functions had been approved.

7. On 21 December 1992 the ECE submitted the list of current and foreseen vacancies in 1993 including a number of senior posts which, if left vacant, would jeopardize both the substantive work and the management of the ECE. To date no reply has been received.

8. The list of current and foreseen ECE vacancies in both priority and non-priority areas is outlined in the Annex, which contains an updating of information presented to the Ad Hoc Informal Meeting on 25 January 1993.

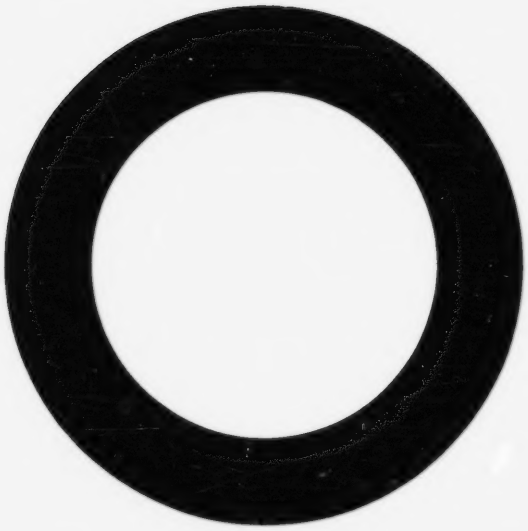
9. The list of vacancies in the Annex does not include a number of posts earmarked for the 1992 promotion exercise. A total of 13 professional staff of the ECE have been recommended for the 1992 Promotion Review. The cases have been reviewed by the Appointment and Promotion Board at Headquarters in March. While several promotions would be accommodated against vacant posts, others would only be possible if staff at the higher grade were promoted. The 1992 Promotion Review is expected to create a number of vacancies at the lower professional levels (P-2 and P-3). The exact number and location of these vacancies will only be known when the promotion registers are issued by the Secretary-General later in the year.

ANNEX

ECE VACANT POSTS
Situation on 17 March 1993

No.	Div.	Level	Post identity Functional title	Central review	Recruitment status
1.	**CURRENT VACANCIES**				
	A.				
1	OES	D-2	Deputy Executive Secretary	sub 12/11/92 ok 24/12/92	Candidates evaluated Decision pending at HQ
	B. PRIORITY AREAS				
2	ENHS	P-4	Environmental Affairs Officer (Air pollution monitoring)	sub 12/11/92 ok 24/12/92	List of candidates submitted to ECE on 9/3/93. Interviews underway
3		P-3	Environmental Affairs Officer (Industrial accidents)	sub 12/11/92 ok 24/12/92	ECE recommended selected candidate on 3/11/92
4		P-2	Economic Affairs Officer (Environmental impact assessment)	sub 12/11/92 ok 24/12/92	Awaiting Roster candidates from national competitive examinations
5	TRAN	P-3	Economic Affairs Officer (Dangerous goods)	sub 12/11/92 ok 24/12/92	ECE recommended selected candidate on 30/10/92
6		P-3	Economic Affairs Officer (Transport statistics and analyses)	sub 12/11/92 ok 24/12/92	Awaiting more Roster candidates from national competitive examinations
7	STAT	P-3	Statistician (SNA & related fields)	sub 12/11/92 ok 24/12/92	Awaiting Roster candidates from national competitive examination
8		P-2	Statistician (Environment)	sub 12/11/92 ok 24/12/92	Awaiting Roster candidates from national competitive examination
9	DEAP	P-5	Senior Economic Affairs Officer (Transition economies)	sub 12/11/92 ok 24/12/92	ECE recommended selected candidate on 18/2/93

No.	Div.	Level	Post identity Functional title	Central review	Recruitment status
	C. NON-PRIORITY AREAS				
10	OES	P-3	Programme and Evaluation Officer	sub 12/11/92 ok 24/12/92	Post to be filled through internal competitive examination or transfer
11	I/T	P-4	Economic Affairs Officer (Chemical Section)	sub 12/11/92 ok 24/12/92	ECE recommended selected candidate on 30/10/92
12	ENHS	P-5	Chief, Human Settlements Section	sub 16/11/92	Post became vacant on 27/1/93. Pending central review, ECE recommended internal transfer on 18/11/92 (see 14 below)
2.	**FORTHCOMING VACANCIES**				
	A. PRIORITY AREAS				
13	ENHS	P-3	Environmental Affairs Officer		Post to be advertised
14	TRAN	P-5	Senior Economic Affairs Officer (Technology)	sub 21/12/92	Will become vacant if internal transfer authorized (see 12 above)
15		P-4	Economic Affairs Officer (Facilitation)		Post to be advertised
16		P-3	Economic Affairs Officer (Technology)		Post will become vacant upon retirement (31/5/93)
17	TRADE	D-1	Director	sub 21/12/92	Post will become vacant upon retirement (31/7/93)
18	DEAP	P-4	Economic Affairs Officer (Trade analysis)	sub 17/3/93	Post will become vacant upon retirement (31/3/93)
	B. NON-PRIORITY AREAS				
19	OES	P-4	Chief, Administrative and Conference Services	sub 21/12/92	Post will become vacant upon retirement (31/5/93)
20	ENERGY	D-1	Director	sub 21/12/92	Post will become vacant upon retirement (31/8/93)
21		P-5	Senior Economic Affairs Officer	sub 21/12/92	Post will become vacant upon retirement (30/6/93)
22	I/T	P-5	Chief of Section (Technology)	sub 21/12/92	Post will become vacant upon retire-ment (31/10/93)



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COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(Commission decision E (47))

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of decision E (47) the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems at their sixth session discussed their role in the new European context and endorsed the general orientations of document ENVWA/R.81 prepared by the Bureau of the Senior Advisers. They requested the newly elected Bureau, expanded to seven members, to prepare, with the assistance of the secretariat, a proposal for the restructured programme of work and revised terms of reference of the Senior Advisers for consideration by the consultation of the heads of delegations in autumn 1993 and subsequent submission to the Senior Advisers at their seventh session.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of decision E (47), cooperation and coordination with the European Community (EC), OECD, UNEP and relevant organizations was promoted through, inter alia, mutual participation in respective environment-related meetings. The preparation of the report on the State of the Environment in Europe continued in close cooperation between the task force established by the Commission of the European Communities (CEC) and the UN/ECE secretariat. Close cooperation with OECD continued in the fields of management of hazardous chemicals and environment and economics through the organization, in particular, of workshops on good laboratory practice principles (Hungary, October 1992), costing techniques for environmental policies (Geneva, January 1993) and the impact of economic restructuring on the environment (Hungary, March 1993). A series of consultations were held

between the secretariats of OECD and UN/ECE on possible extension of the system of environmental performance reviews, developed by OECD for its member countries, to the entire UN/ECE region. Joint ECE/UNEP activities were launched in 1993 on strengthening environmental management capabilities in central and eastern European countries.

3. Both the Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity were signed during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development by 39 ECE member countries and the European Community (paragraph 4 of decision E (47)).

4. The Senior Advisers at their sixth session considered a secretariat document on the implications at regional level of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (ENVWA/R.69) and decided to recommend to the Commission at its forty-eighth session that all Principal Subsidiary Bodies be invited to consider proposals contained therein of relevance to their respective work and to elaborate detailed proposals for action for consideration by the Commission at its forty-ninth session in April 1994. The Senior Advisers made arrangements for the elaboration of a proposal on priorities and possible detailed action to be taken by themselves in that regard, and expressed readiness to participate, in close cooperation with the Inland Transport Committee and the Committee on Energy, in the organization of a regional conference on transport and the environment, provided the Commission takes concrete steps towards the holding of such a Conference (paragraph 5 of decision E (47)).

5. Pursuant to paragraph 6 of decision E (47), the Senior Advisers adopted Elements for a Long-term Environmental Programme for Europe as their contribution to the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Lucerne, Switzerland, 28-30 April 1993), and elaborated proposals for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration, for submission to the Expert Group for the Conference.

6. Among the proposals for action submitted by the Senior Advisers to the Lucerne Ministerial Conference is one on the development of more systematic implementation and verification of ECE Conventions in the field of environment, taking account of the problems of some member countries, especially those in transition. The Senior Advisers will consider the outcome of the Lucerne Conference on this subject together with the similar provision, as contained in document ENVWA/R.69, at the consultation of heads of delegations to the Senior Advisers in autumn 1993 (paragraph 7 of decision E (47)).

7. The Senior Advisers made arrangements for wide dissemination of an updated version of their 1993 report on bilateral and multilateral financial cooperation in the ECE region of relevance to environmental protection. Workshops were organized by the Senior Advisers in 1992/1993 on topical issues for countries in transition such as environmentally sound management of chemicals, integrated pollution prevention and control, and environment and economics. A draft policy document, to be prepared in the light of a series of four workshops organized in 1993/1994 under the joint ECE/UNEP activities, will be considered by the Senior Advisers at their seventh session. Activities were launched under the implementation of the ECE conventions on

environmental impact assessment, transboundary waters and industrial accidents, aimed at strengthening the capacity of countries in transition to comply with obligations under these conventions. The Seminar on Low-waste Technology and Environmentally Sound Products (Warsaw, Poland, May 1993) will consider, inter alia, ways and means for the promotion of business opportunities related to environmental technology (paragraph 8 of decision E (47)).

8. Following paragraph 9 of decision E (47), the Senior Advisers requested the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to prepare a proposal on possible action on environmental performance reviews in the light of the Lucerne Conference, for consideration by the consultation of heads of delegations to the Senior Advisers in autumn 1993.

9. At its tenth session, the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution decided that the Working Group on Strategies as a first priority will conduct negotiations in order to present to the eleventh session of the Executive Body a draft protocol for further reduction of sulphur emissions after 1993. With a view to widening the scope of the negotiations, the Executive Body amended the mandate of the Working Group to include provisions for proposals on financial burden-sharing in order to facilitate the implementation of protocols. It also entrusted the same Working Group with the task of providing to the eleventh session of the Executive Body a progress report on the second step of the protocol concerning the control of emissions of nitrogen oxides (paragraph 10 of decision E (47)).

10. Twenty-eight member countries and the European Community had signed the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context by 31 December 1992, and three countries have ratified the Convention so far (paragraph 11 of decision E (47)).

11. Twenty-two member countries and the European Community had signed the protocol on volatile organic compounds by 31 December 1992 and one country has ratified the Protocol so far (paragraph 12 of decision E (47)).

12. Twenty-six member countries and the European Community, and twenty-five member countries and the European Community had signed by 31 December 1992 the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, respectively. The Meeting of Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, held in May 1992, and the Working Party on Water Problems at its sixth session held in November 1992, discussed measures to be taken for the implementation of the accidents convention and the water convention respectively, to the maximum extent possible pending their entry into force, and elaborated relevant work-plans (paragraph 13 of decision E (47)).

13. A number of events took place during the past year related to the ECE region-wide campaign on Energy Efficiency 2000, such as the two Ad Hoc Meetings on Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones, (Moscow, Russian Federation, May 1992 and Rome, Italy, October 1992); and a meeting on Electricity and Energy Efficiency Technology and Demand Management (Oslo, Norway, June 1992). A book was published in September 1992 entitled East-West

Energy Efficiency. The following Symposia took place or are envisaged within the Project: Symposium on Energy Efficiency Measures in Industry (Bled, Slovenia, September/October 1991); Symposium on Energy Efficiency and Economic Transition in Central and Eastern Europe (Paris, France, 25-28 May 1993); Symposium on Environmental Benefits of Energy Conservation, (Moscow, Russian Federation, 20-24 September 1993); and a symposium to be held in one of the Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones in the Russian Federation with technical visits to the other demonstration zones located in or near Moscow (paragraph 14 of decision E (47)).

14. A review of national policies and strategies promoting the reduction of the risk of industrial accidents and improvement of preventive, preparedness and response measures will be undertaken at the second Meeting of Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in May 1993. The Working Party on Water Problems was entrusted by the Senior Advisers with the compilation of lists of hazardous substances and industrial sectors or industries from which these substances derive. This Working Party has also undertaken the preparation of a draft policy document covering such aspects as control of water pollutants within industrial processes and recycling of water and recovery of valuable substances. A report will be finalized for consideration by the Senior Advisers at their seventh session on recommended principles, criteria and guidelines for environmental product profiles. An ad hoc meeting will be convened by the Senior Advisers in close cooperation with OECD, in Austria in late 1994, to review the progress made regarding the application of existing OECD systems and practices on management of chemicals in ECE countries which are non-members of OECD. Following the outcome of the High-Level Meeting on Cooperation and Sustainable Development in the Chemical Industry, held in Warsaw (Poland) from 10 to 12 March 1992 in cooperation with the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), the Working Party on the Chemical Industry decided to convene a Meeting of Experts in Warsaw on 15-16 April 1993 to assist the Polish authorities in preparing a detailed project on the possible establishment of a regional environmental management centre for the chemical industry. It also agreed to undertake a pilot project demonstrating the environmental clean-up of selected chemical production sites and decided as a first stage to identify and prioritize several potential sites in the countries in transition (paragraph 15 of decision E (47)).

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COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT

Report by the Executive Secretary

1. This report has been prepared in response to paragraph 17 of decision F (47).

2. In the light of recent political and economic changes in the region and the provisions of Commission decision O (45), the Inland Transport Committee at its fifty-fifth session agreed on the draft revised terms of reference for submission to the Commission (ECE/TRANS/97, Annex II).

3. As a follow-up to the Pan-European Transport Conference (Prague, October 1991), the ECE secretariat participated, together with the European Parliament, the European Community (EC) and international organizations, in the elaboration of a European Transport Charter and in the preparation of a Second Pan-European Transport Conference to be held in early 1994.

4. The secretariat continued to participate in meetings of the EC and of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) and in high-level intersecretariat meetings in 1992 with a view to avoiding duplication of work and making optimal use of resources.

LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

5. The importance of the ECE international agreements, conventions and resolutions for the achievement of a coherent, efficient and well-balanced all-European transport system was increasingly recognized. Work continued and progress was made on the elaboration, administration and updating of those ECE legal instruments, in particular the 1968 Global Convention on Road Signs and

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Signals and the 1971 European Agreement supplementing it, which were revised in 1992.

6. In the field of facilitation of international road transport, new amendments to the European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) and the revision of the consolidated Resolution on the Facilitation of Road Transport (R.E.4) were finalized.

7. The European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR) will be reconsidered in order to examine possible improvement of technical and operational parameters of international roads, taking into account safety and environmental aspects. Similarly, arrangements were made to study the situation regarding the application of the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) in member countries and to examine the existing AGC network with a view to keeping the Agreement up to date.

8. A new classification of European inland waterways was adopted in 1992 which will facilitate the construction in Europe of a coherent and modern inland water transport infrastructure network. This will be the subject of a European Agreement (AGN) similar to those established for road, rail and combined transport.

9. With regard to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC), which has so far been signed by 18 Governments and ratified by 5, provisions relating to combined transport on inland waterways were elaborated and, pending their incorporation into either the AGTC or the yet to be prepared AGN, adopted as the Resolution on the Development of Combined Transport on Inland Waterways.

10. The draft of a new Convention on Customs Treatment of Pool Containers used in International Transport has also been finalized and will be brought to the attention of all ECE Governments, the EC and international organizations concerned for comments.

11. The European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) continued to be amended in 1992. A new version of the ADR containing the amendments adopted in 1991 was published. Following the intention of the EC to apply ADR within the Community, which means the official recognition of the ADR as the sole reference legal instrument in the EC and EFTA countries, the ADR will be restructured.

12. Progress was made in the elaboration of the provisions on the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN), which should be finalized in 1993.

13. Work on regulations concerning the transport of dangerous goods also led to the eighth revision of the multimodal UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, which will be published in 1993 and which will be widely followed in all modal international agreements such as ADR, RID, ADN, IMDG Code, ICAO Technical Instructions and IATA Regulations.

14. The work on the revision of the 1958 Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions of Approval and Reciprocal Recognition of Approval for Motor Vehicle Equipment and Parts of 1958, with a view to its worldwide application and to the rationalization of the legal and administrative procedures, also advanced in 1992.

15. Also in the field of standards for road vehicles, an important contribution to reducing the negative environmental aspects of transport was made by aligning the exhaust emission limits and testing requirements in the ECE with the more stringent Directives of the European Community, both for private cars and for diesel-engined commercial vehicles, including the dates of entry into force. In total, forty-four out of the ninety ECE Regulations relevant to the construction of cars and annexed to the 1958 Agreement are considered equivalent to the various EC Directives. The equivalence of other Regulations is being considered for motor cycles and motor vehicles which were not yet included in the scope of the respective EC Framework Directives.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

16. In addition to the work on the existing infrastructure Agreements as described above, e.g. AGR, AGC and AGTC, the implementation of transport infrastructure projects progressed satisfactorily. The Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) network was revised so as to include east-west connections. The TEM programme of work, foreseeing the completion of this motorway network, concentrates on the new layout and its construction programme and the technical and operational issues leading to this goal. Under the TEM Trust Fund Agreement signed between the participating Governments and ECE, the ECE is the Executing Agency, with project Governments contributing to the fund to finance project activities.

17. The Trans-European Railways (TER) project, which is aimed at developing a coherent and efficient rail and combined transport system among central and east European countries and between those countries and other European countries, also made progress. The TER network was revised to include east-west connections, and possibilities for development of combined transport were explored. For the TER Project a Trust Fund Agreement has been operational since 1 January 1993 under the same conditions as for TEM.

18. Pursuant to Council Resolution 1991/74, the ECE and the Economic Commission for Africa are cooperating on the preparation of an evaluation report on the studies relating to the Gibraltar Straits Project made in the period 1982-1993.

19. As a follow-up to the Volos Seminar (June 1991) and to the Pan-European Transport Conference (October 1991), bottlenecks and missing links in the transport infrastructure network of the ECE member countries are being identified which could indicate how existing infrastructure networks may be improved.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

20. Following the first Road Safety Week in the ECE region (October 1990) a Seminar on Road Safety was held on 23-24 March 1992. The Seminar assessed

positively the results of the road safety campaign. The Committee adopted a resolution launching the preparatory work for the second Road Safety Week to be held in early 1995 and which will target young road-users.

21. A global Seminar on the Impact of Increasing Dimensions of Loading Units on Combined Transport was held from 1 to 4 September 1992. On the basis of the recommendations of the Seminar, the Committee adopted resolution No. 241 on that subject.

22. In the field of rail transport, an ad hoc intersecretariat group was created with the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) and the International Union of Railways (UIC) in order to study problems and propose measures for the facilitation of border crossing in international transport. The ad hoc group has identified a number of border stations on determined rail lines, at which it has undertaken a detailed analysis of those factors which cause delays in international rail traffic. The work of the ad hoc group will be completed in 1993.

23. In the field of inland water transport regulations, as a result of a compromise worked out during many years, an agreement has been reached on unified requirements for the issuance of boatmaster's licences with a view to their reciprocal recognition in international transport by inland waterways and on ships certificates.

24. The transport situation in central and east European countries which are in transition to a market economy is characterized by a number of difficulties. Therefore, reform processes in the field of transport in transition countries will be studied in order to establish an inventory of the changes underway, particularly the regulatory and institutional aspects.

25. The following workshops were held on transition issues in the field of inland transport:

- Responsibilities of the State and the Railways in a Market Economy (Rouen, France, 30 June-2 July 1992)

- Road Transport Safety (Benesov, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, 6-9 October 1992)

- Workshops on combined transport took place in Moscow (Russian Federation, 21-22 October 1992) and in Bonn, (Germany, 6-9 October 1992)

26. The United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, the text of the ADR and the TIR Handbook are now available to external users on diskette.

27. A data base and electronic mail system has been tested with respect to the Regulations on the Construction of Vehicles and will later be extended to the Transport of Dangerous Goods. The secretariat will keep the system under review in the light of the results of the tests so as to improve its performance.

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PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1993-1997

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The draft programme of work of the Commission for 1993-1997 is submitted (in Annex I) for the Commission's consideration and approval pursuant to operative paragraph 5(a) of its resolution 5 (XXIV).

2. The amendments to the programme of work approved by the Commission at its forty-eighth session will be incorporated by the secretariat in the text which will appear as Annex IV to the Commission's Annual Report to the Economic and Social Council.

3. In the case of the programme of work of the Commission itself (programme category 00), a draft has been prepared containing detailed descriptions of the programme elements, since this programme category is subject to review by the Commission at its annual session (Annex II). In certain cases these descriptions will have to be completed by the Executive Secretary after the forty-eighth session of the Commission in order to reflect the relevant resolutions and other decisions which will be adopted at that session. Such programme elements are annotated: "To be completed as may be necessary".

4. In the framework of the procedures for prior consultation with the organizations of the United Nations system pursuant to Council resolution 1549 (XLIX), and in order to avoid any unnecessary duplication of work, the Executive Secretary has offered his comments, as in the past, to the executive heads of those organizations who have transmitted to him their programmes of work. An account of the cooperation which has taken place during the past year between the ECE and the specialized agencies and other international organizations and institutions is given in the Executive Secretary's note E/ECE/1278.

GE.93-20888

5. The Medium-Term Plan for 1992-1997 was approved by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. The Economic Commission for Europe has held consultations concerning a revision of the Plan to reflect the new realities in the ECE region which have developed since the Plan was formulated in 1989. The Executive Secretary, after consultation with ECE Governments, submitted proposals for the revision of the Plan to the Secretary-General. The revised Medium-Term Plan was approved by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. Modifications in the order and titles of some of the subprogrammes in the revised Medium-Term Plan are reflected in Annex I as a result of decision O (45).

6. With regard to the ECE pattern of meetings, the General Assembly in its resolution 47/202 approved the Calendar of Conferences and Meetings for 1993, which contains provision for the holding of the forty-eighth session of the Commission in April 1993. The following tentative schedule for the regular meetings of its Principal Subsidiary Bodies has been established, in accordance with the decisions taken by those bodies, for the period between the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions of the Commission.

Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments	7-11 June	1993
Conference of European Statisticians	14-18 June	
Committee on Human Settlements	21-23 September	
Timber Committee	11-15 October	
Committee on Energy	9-11 November	
Committee on the Development of Trade	7-9 December	
Inland Transport Committee	17-21 January	1994

Meetings and study tours

7. In 1992 the ECE held a total of 580 half-days of meetings serviced by the United Nations. Of these half-days of meetings, 24 were held outside Geneva, 36 were for meetings of ECOSOC bodies on the transport of dangerous goods and 31 were for meetings of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. In addition 104 half-days of meetings were held outside Geneva with services provided by the host authorities. For purposes of comparison the equivalent figures for the period 1985-1992 are given below:

	Geneva	Outside Geneva	Outside Geneva
	UN interpretation	UN interpretation	Host authorities interpretation
1985	778	68	124
1986	669	80	132
1987	685	60	123
1988	638	55	131
1989	639	95	101
1990	699	73	91
1991	651	20	113
1992	556	24	104

8. The meetings held outside Geneva in 1992 under the auspices of the Commission took place at the invitation of the Governments of the following countries: Australia (1); Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (4); Finland (1); France (1); Germany (1); Italy (4); Poland (3); Portugal (2); Spain (2); Sweden (2); Turkey (1); Ukraine (1); United Kingdom (1); United States (2).

9. The Commission may wish to bear in mind that such meetings are organized only if the subsidiary body concerned has accepted an invitation extended by the host Government and that this decision is clearly reflected in the report of the body concerned. Moreover, the host Government is obliged, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 31/140 (I), to bear the additional costs of meetings attributable to the venue being away from the Commission's headquarters.

10. Study tours were organized during 1992 in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and Portugal.

11. During 1992, and in accordance with decisions D (45) and O (45), 34 workshops were held to assist countries in transition to a market economy. These workshops are usually informal meetings with facilities and support provided by host Governments and/or sponsoring organizations (see E/ECE/1272). Workshops were held in the following countries in 1992: Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland.

Documentation

12. The following data (in terms of pages reproduced in the three working languages of the Commission) have been compiled and supplied by the Statistical Unit of the Editorial and Documents Control Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva. For purposes of comparison, the equivalent figures for the period 1985-1992 have been provided:

Year	Total physical pages reproduced in English, French and Russian
1985	106,748
1986	98,504
1987	88,383
1988	84,365
1989	85,899
1990	96,642
1991	94,988
1992	88,905

13. Sales of ECE publications generated a gross income of approximately $ 104,000 in 1992.

ANNEX I

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1992-1996

Introduction

NOTE: The revised structure of the Commission, reflecting the provisions of decision O (45), notably the definition of priority areas of activity, corresponds to a large extent to the sub-programmes used in the ECE Programme Budget and the Medium-Term Plan. This correspondence is intended to provide greater homogeneity and transparency in the monitoring of programme delivery, both by the intergovernmental machinery of the Commission and by the secretariat.

In the course of consultations with member Governments on the structure of the programme of work, as reflected in the Medium-Term Plan, it was agreed that the order of sub-programmes would begin with the five areas of activity defined by the Commission in decision O (45) as priorities. In order to maintain numerical consistency with reports of the various Principal Subsidiary Bodies and Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission, the programme of work contained in this annex is presented in the form in which it was adopted by the Commission at its forty-sixth session, prior to the approval of the revised Medium-Term Plan, and has been used by its subsidiary bodies in the course of the year. The revised structure, as set out below, will be used in the Commission's Annual Report to the Council.

CATEGORY	SUB-PROGRAMME (revised structure to be used for the remainder of 1993)
00	Policy and coordination of the work of the Commission
01	Environment
02	Transport
03	Statistics
04	Trade facilitation
05	Economic analysis
06	Energy
07	Development of international trade
08	Industry and technology
09	Agriculture and timber
10	Human settlements

CATEGORY	SUB-PROGRAMME (structure used in 1992 and throughout this document)
00	Policy and coordination of the work of the Commission
01	Development issues and policies
02	Food and agriculture (including forestry products)
	A. Agriculture
	B. Timber
03	Environment
04	Human settlements
05	Industrial development
	A. Chemicals *
	B. Engineering industries and automation *
	C. Standardization *
	D. Steel *
06	International trade and development finance
	A. Trade facilitation
	B. Trade
07	Energy issues
08	Science and technology
09	Transport, communications and tourism
10	Statistics

* Activities in these areas are carried out by Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission.

The remainder of Annex I and Annex II will be issued as E/ECE/1277/Add.1.

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PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1993-1997

Note by the Executive Secretary

ADDENDUM

ANNEX I (cont.)

As indicated in E/ECE/1277, Annex I, the continuation of Annex I and the draft programme of work of the Commission itself (programme category 00) are contained in this addendum.

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SUB-PROGRAMME 00 - POLICY AND COORDINATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

[See Annex II]

SUB-PROGRAMME 01 - DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES

Authority: Programme of work of the Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments, approved by the Senior Advisers at their twenty-eighth session (ECE/EC.AD/40, paras. 42-44 and Annex)

Programme activity 01.1: Exchange of information on economic developments

Programme elements

01.1.1 Exchange of information on the development of national economies and on policies and programmes (1)

Programme activity 01.2: Long-term projections and perspectives

Programme elements

01.2.1 Growth conditions in the period 1992-1996 and their long-term implications (3)

01.2.2 Specialized long-term macroeconomic database and further development of the SEM system of macroeconomic models (4)

Programme activity 01.3: Selected structural economic issues

Programme elements

01.3.1 International trade and structural changes - interregional and intraregional trends and policies (2)

01.3.2 Structural changes in employment, labour productivity and working patterns and their impact on economic growth (6)

01.3.3 Sustainable economic development (5)

SUB-PROGRAMME 02 - FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (INCLUDING FORESTRY PRODUCTS)

02(A) - AGRICULTURE

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on Agricultural Problems, approved by the Committee at its forty-fourth session (ECE/AGRI/122, para.27 and Annex II)

Programme activity 02(A).1: Economic analysis of the agri-food sector

Programme elements

02(A).1.1 Review of recent developments and prospects in agriculture and agricultural policies in the European region (5)

02(A).1.2 Review of agricultural markets and trade (6)

02(A).1.3 Activities of the FAO/ECE Working Party on the Economics of the Agri-Food Sector and Farm Management (1)

02(A).1.4 Prices of agricultural products and inputs (9)

02(A).1.5 National agricultural accounts (13)

02(A).1.6 Processing of agricultural products (14)

Programme activity 02(A).2: Agriculture and the environment

Programme elements

02(A).2.1 Economic, legal, technological and regulatory measures for the promotion of environmentally sustainable agriculture and production of healthy food: survey of current measures, recommendations, guidelines, codes; effective implementation and monitoring of compliance; economic and social impact; elaboration of new measures and regulations (2)

02(A).2.2 Integrated environmentally sound agricultural practices (4)

02(A).2.3 Effects of radionuclear contaminations and measures for the elimination of their consequences for agriculture (11)

02(A).2.4 The relation between environmental factors (including pollution by industries and other human activities) and the quantity and quality of agricultural production: economic, regulatory and institutional aspects (8)

Programme activity 02(A).3: Standardization of perishable produce and quality development

Programme elements

02(A).3.1 Activities of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development (3)

Programme activity 02(A).4: Food and agricultural statistics

Programme element

02(A).4.1 Improvement, development and harmonization of food and agricultural statistics (7)

02(A).4.2 New agricultural statistics in transition countries (10)

02(A).4.3 Handbook for international collections of statistics (12)

SUB-PROGRAMME 02(B) - TIMBER

Authority: Programme of work of the Timber Committee, approved by the Committee at its fiftieth session (ECE/TIM/63, paras. 68-71 and Annex I)

Programme activity 02(B).1: Analysis of developments for forestry and forest products in the long-, medium- and short-term

Programme elements

02(B).1.1 Appraisal of long-term timber trends and prospects (2)
02(B).1.2 Medium-term trends in industry structure and markets in specific forest products sectors (7)
02(B).1.3 Review of short-term forest products market developments and prospects (1)
02(B).1.4 Quantification and evaluation of the environmental and other non-wood benefits of forests (6)
02(B).1.5 Trends, prospects and policies in forestry and forest products in southern Europe (22)

Programme activity 02(B).2: Collection, dissemination and improvement of forest and forest products statistics

Programme elements

02(B).2.1 Collection of forest products statistics and publication of the Timber Bulletin (3)
02(B).2.2 Improvement of the quality of forest and forest products statistics (including their collection and dissemination systems) (12)
02(B).2.3 Forest resource assessment (4)
02(B).2.4 Forest fire statistics (18)
02(B).2.5 Productivity in the forest sector (14)
02(B).2.6 Transfer of economic and statistical methods and experience in the forest and forest products sector (19)

Programme activity 02(B).3: Forest technology, management and training

Programme elements

02(B).3.1 Silvicultural operations and general management aspects (9)
02(B).3.2 Wood harvesting and transport (10)
02(B).3.3 Vocational training, applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health of forest workers (11)

Programme activity 02(B).4: Issues related to a sound and sustainable development of the forest and forest products sector

Programme elements

02(B).4.1 Use of wood for energy (16)
02(B).4.2 Implications of air pollution and other damage to forests for wood supply and markets (21)
02(B).4.3 Public relations in the forestry and forest industries sector (8)
02(B).4.4 Competitivity of sawnwood (20)
02(B).4.5 Development of new products, recycling, markets and applications for forest products (13)
02(B).4.6 Information exchange on occurrences of sudden and severe damage to forests (17)

Programme activity 02(B).5: Assistance to the economies in transition in central and eastern Europe

Programme elements

02(B).5.1 Activities to assist countries in transition to a market economy (5)

Programme activity 02(B).6: Issues accorded special priority by the Commission or the Committee

Programme elements

02(B).6.1 Problems in the forestry and forest industry sector arising from radiation contamination, particularly from the Chernobyl disaster (15)

SUB-PROGRAMME 03 - ENVIRONMENT

Authority: Programme of work of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems, approved by the Senior Advisers at their sixth session (ECE/ENVWA/29, paras. 59-65 and Annex III).

Programme activity 03.1: Policy issues

Programme elements

- 03.1.1 Environment and economics (A)
- 03.1.2 National environmental performance reviews (B)
- 03.1.3 Improvement of environmental management in countries with economies in transition (A)
- 03.1.4 Bilateral and multilateral financial cooperation of relevance to environmental protection (B)
- 03.1.5 Responsibility and liability (C)
- 03.1.6 Environmental rights and obligations (B)

Programme activity 03.2: Environmental impact assessment

Programme elements

- 03.2.1 Interim implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (A)

Programme activity 03.3: Environmentally sound technology and products

Programme elements

- 03.3.1 Regional Strategy for Integrated Waste Management (B)
- 03.3.2 Low-waste technology and environmentally sound products (B)
- 03.3.3 Environmental product profiles (B)
- 03.3.4 Application of low-waste technology (C)
- 03.3.5 Management of hazardous chemicals (A)

Programme activity 03.4: Water management

Programme elements

- 03.4.1 Interim implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (A)
- 03.4.2 Guidelines on sustainable water management (B)

Programme activity 03.5: Industrial accidents

Programme elements

- 03.5.1 Interim implementation of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (A)

SUB-PROGRAMME 04 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on Human Settlements, approved by the Committee at its fifty-third session (ECE/HBP/86, paras. 38-44 and Annex I).

Programme activity 04.1: Basic issues

Programme elements

04.1.2 Human settlements situation and related current trends and policies (3)

04.1.2 Development of human settlements statistics (6)

Programme activity 04.2: Sustainable development of human settlements

Programme elements

04.2.1 Promotion of sustainable human settlements policies (including ecologically sound settlements) (2)

04.2.2 Major trends influencing human settlements development (7)

04.2.3 Human settlements problems in southern Europe (8)

Programme activity 04.3: Process of socio-economic transition

Programme elements

04.3.1 Modernization policies for built-up areas (5)

04.3.2 Management of land, housing and building (4)

04.3.3 Housing forecasting and programming (9)

04.3.4 Practical transition problems (1)

SUB-PROGRAMME 05 - INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

05(A) - CHEMICALS

Authority: Programme of work of the Working Party on the Chemical Industry, approved by the Working Party at its second session (ECE/CHEM/86, paras. 41-43 and Annex I).

Programme activity 05(A).1: Long- and medium-term trends and prospects: chemical industry - sustainable economic and ecological development

- 05(A).1.1 Market trends and outlook for selected chemical products (11)
- 05(A).1.2 Sustainable development in the chemical industry (3)
- 05(A).1.3 Environmental clean-up of selected chemical production sites (5)

Programme activity 05(A).2: Statistics and current developments in the chemical industry, including international trade

Programme elements

- 05(A).2.1 Annual Review of the Chemical Industry (1)
- 05(A).2.2 Studies of national developments in the chemical industry (10)
- 05(A).2.3 Development of internationally comparable statistics, including those for specialized products (8)
- 05(A).2.4 Publication of the Bulletin of Trade in Chemical Products (12)

Programme activity 05(A).3: Economic issues and information on the chemical industry including assistance to countries in transition

Programme element

- 05(A).3.1 ECE Directory of the Chemical Industry (2)
- 05(A).3.2 Chemical legislation in the countries of the ECE region (4)

Programme activity 05(A).4: Environmental and resource issues in the chemical industry

Programme elements

- 05(A).4.1 Management of plastic wastes in the ECE region (6)
- 05(A).4.2 Waste treatment in industrial parks (7)
- 05(A).4.3 Complex utilization of raw materials using advanced low- and non-waste process technologies (9)

Programme activity 05(A).5: Advanced chemical processes and products

Programme elements

None

05(B) - ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES AND AUTOMATION

Authority: Programme of work of the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation, approved by the Working Party at its twelfth session (ECE/ENG.AUT/51, para. 44 and Annex I)

Programme activity 05(B).1: Current medium- and long-term trends and prospects in engineering industries and automation

Programme elements

05(B).1.1 Medium- and long-term assessment of engineering industries in national, regional and global economies (3)

05(B).1.2 Current developments and prospects in engineering industries and automation, including appropriate aspects of international cooperation in this sector (2)

Programme activity 05(B).2: The role of engineering industries in environmental protection and resource saving

Programme elements

05(B).2.1 Foundry production and ecology (5)

05(B).2.2 Low-waste processes and automated equipment for the production of precision instruments for engineering industries (8)

05(B).2.3 Workshop to be held in conjunction with the Kuban's Sun-93 electric vehicle rally (7)

Programme activity 05(B).3: Special issues in engineering industries and automation of relevance to economies in transition

Programme elements

05(B).3.1 Adjustment of engineering industries in economies in transition (4)

Programme activity 05(B).4: Selected issues in the engineering industries and in automation

Programme elements

05(B).4.1 Rehabilitation engineering (6)

Programme activity 05(B).5: Statistics in engineering industries and automation

Programme elements

05(B).5.1 Development of internationally comparable statistics (1)

05(C) - STANDARDIZATION

Authority: Programme of work of Working Party on Standardization Policies, approved by Working Party at its second session (ECE/STAND/36, paras. 17-20 and Annex I).

Programme activity 05(C).1: Coordination

Programme elements

05(C).1.1 Identification of problems (7)

05(C).1.2 Regular guidance for programme of work for international standardization through identification of sectors which are of interest to member Governments (8)

05(C).1.3 Preparation and implementation of recommendations (9)

Programme activity 05(C).2: Harmonization

Programme elements

05(C).2.1 Review of developments, prospects and problems at the international, regional and national levels (10)

05(C).2.2 Measures to facilitate the harmonization of principles and practices of standardization and related activities (11)

05(C).2.3 Measures to facilitate the implementation of internationally harmonized standards and technical regulations (12)

05(C).2.4 Approval of definitions of terms used internationally in the fields of standardization and related activities (13)

05(C).2.5 Presentation of ECE recommended standards and harmonized technical regulations (14)

05(C).2.6 Preparation and implementation of recommendations (15)

Programme activity 05(C).3: Conformity assessment

Programme elements

05(C).3.1 Identification of problems (1)

05(C).3.2 Promotion of international certification systems and arrangements (2)

05(C).3.3 Measures to achieve mutual confidence in the technical competence and reliability of national conformity assessment systems (3)

05(C).3.4 Establishment of normative documents relating to testing activities and laboratory accreditation (4)

05(C).3.5 Aspects of metrology relevant to testing activities (5)

05(C).3.6 Identification of sectors which could lend themselves to priority preparation of multilateral or bilateral agreements for the recognition of test results and of recommendations to that effect to interested Governments and bodies (6)

05(D) - STEEL

Authority: Programme of work of the Working Party on Steel, approved by the Working Party at its second session (ECE/STEEL/80, paras. 85-89 and Annex I).

Programme activity 05(D).1: Long-term trends and prospects in the iron and steel industry

Programme elements

05(D).1.1 Long-term prospects in the iron and steel industry (8)

Programme activity 05(D).2: Current developments and medium-term prospects in the iron and steel industry, including international trade

Programme elements

05(D).2.1 Short-term developments and prospects in the steel industry and the steel market (1)

05(D).2.2 Studies of national developments in the iron and steel industry (3)

Programme activity 05(D).3: Economic and technological issues in the iron and steel industry

Programme elements

05(D).3.1 Economic aspects of developments in the quality of steel products (7)

05(D).3.2 Recent developments in the consumption and trade in steel in ECE member countries (6)

Programme activity 05(D).4: Environmental and resource issues in the iron and steel industry

Programme elements

05(D).4.1 Metallurgy and ecology (4)

05(D).4.2 Problems arising from the use of iron and steel scrap (4)

Programme activity 05(D).5: Iron and steel statistics

Programme elements

05(D).5.1 Development of steel statistics (2)

05(D).5.2 Publication of steel statistics (2)

05(D).5.3 Statistics on iron and steel scrap (2)

SUB-PROGRAMME 06 - INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on the Development of Trade, approved by the Committee at its forty-first session (ECE/TRADE/184, para. 24 and Annex).

06(A) - TRADE FACILITATION

Programme activity 06(A).1: International trade procedures and automatic data interchange (1)

06(B) - TRADE PROMOTION

Programme activity 06(B).1: Preparation and revision of Guides relating to international commercial transactions (2)

Programme activity 06(B).2: Organization of seminars and workshops (3)

Programme activity 06(B).3: Information relevant to business operators (6)

06(C) - TRADE ANALYSIS

Programme activity 06(C).1: Discussion themes for Committee's annual sessions (4)

Programme activity 06(C).2: Analysis of recent and prospective trade trends, policies and problems (5)

SUB-PROGRAMME 07 - ENERGY ISSUES

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on Energy, approved by the Committee at its second session (ECE/ENERGY/21, paras. 42-46 and Annex I)

Programme activity 07.1: Energy reforms in central and eastern Europe

Programme elements

07.1.1 Market adaptation of energy-intensive industries in central and eastern Europe (1)

07.1.2 Transition of coal industry from central planning to market economy

07.1.3 The implication of economic reforms in central and eastern Europe on electric power demand, supply and cooperation

07.1.4 Economic reforms and restructuring in eastern and central Europe - their implications and significance for gas market and the gas industry in the ECE region

Programme activity 07.2 Rational use of energy, efficiency and conservation

Programme elements

07.2.1 Energy Efficiency 2000 (2)

07.2.2 Energy efficiency standards (5)

07.2.3 Energy conservation developments, policies and prospects in the region (7)

07.2.4 Rational use of coal, efficiency and conservation

07.2.5 Energy efficiency in electric power

07.2.6 Rational use of gas, including conservation and efficiency measures

Programme activity 07.3: Interface between energy and the environment

Programme elements

07.3.1 Interface between energy and environment: sustainable development (4)

07.3.2 Techniques for the evaluation of alternative instruments in the light of environmentally sustainable development (9)

07.3.3 Sustainable coal development

07.3.4 Environmental protection related to coal mining and coal utilization

07.3.5 Environmental aspects in electric power

07.3.6 Sustainable development in electric power

07.3.7 Gas industry and the environment, including climate change and sustainable development

Programme activity 07.4: Energy policies and prospects and related statistics and projections

Programme elements

07.4.1 National energy programmes, policies and prospects, and related balances, projections and data banks (3)

07.4.2 Annual Bulletin of Energy Statistics for Europe (11)

07.4.3 Overview of energy activities in ECE (12)

Programme activity 07.5: Energy demand and supply issues for sustainable development

Programme elements

07.5.1 Significant new developments affecting energy demand and supply in the short and medium run (6)
07.5.2 New and renewable sources of energy (NRSE) (8)
07.5.3 Developments in the coal industry
07.5.4 Electric power developments
07.5.5 Developments in the gas industry, including trade and interconnections/extension of gas networks

Programme activity 07.6: Energy trade, trade facilitation and infrastructure

Programme elements

07.6.1 Energy trade in the ECE region in the worldwide context (10)
07.6.2 Market trends and trade facilitation in the coal industry
07.6.3 Interconnection of networks in Europe

SUB-PROGRAMME 08 - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Authority: Programme of work of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology, approved by the Senior Advisers at their twentieth session (ECE/SC.TECH/44, paras. 22-23 and Annex).

Programme activity 08.1: Current developments in science and technology policies

Programme elements

08.1.1 Review of changes in national policies, priorities and institutions, and international cooperation (1)

08.2.2 State policy in economies in transition aimed at promoting innovation (3)

Programme activity 08.2: Selected issues in science and technology

Programme elements

08.2.1 Inventory of existing safety guidelines in biotechnology (2)

SUB-PROGRAMME 09 - TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM

Authority: Programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee, approved by the Committee at its fifty-fifth session (ECE/TRANS/97, paras.152-157 and Add.1)

Programme activity 09.1: Transport trends and economies

Programme elements

09.1.1 Review of general trends with regard to transport development and transport policy (1)

09.1.2 Analysis of specific transport economic issues (2)

09.1.3 Development of transport in the Mediterranean Region (3)

Programme activity 09.2: Road transport

Programme elements

09.2.1 Road transport infrastructure (1)

09.2.2 Harmonization of requirements concerning international road transport and facilitation of its operations (1)

09.2.3 Road transport safety (1)

09.2.4 Construction of vehicles (1)

Programme activity 09.3: Rail transport

Programme elements

09.3.1 Rail transport infrastructure (1)

09.3.2 Linking of the European transport network to that of other regions' railways (3)

09.3.3 Harmonization of requirements concerning international railway transport and facilitation of its operations (1)

Programme activity 09.4: Inland water transport

Programme elements

09.4.1 Inland waterway infrastructure (2)

09.4.2 Harmonization of requirements concerning international inland waterway transport and facilitation of its operations, including study of legal provisions (2)

09.4.3 Harmonization and improvement of standards for inland navigation vessels (3)

09.4.4 Inland water transport safety (1)

Programme activity 09.5: Transport of dangerous goods

Programme elements

09.5.1 Regulations on the transport of dangerous goods by road, rail, inland waterways and combined transport (1)

Programme activity 09.6: Environmental protection and energy saving in transport

Programme elements

09.6.1 Impact of transport infrastructure and operations on the environment including pollution and noise (1)

09.6.2 Promotion of economy and efficiency in transport (2)

Programme activity 09.7: Combined transport

Programme elements

09.7.1 Promotion of combined and multimodal transport (1)

09.7.2 Safety requirements for the construction, maintenance and handling of combined transport equipment (2)

Programme activity 09.8: Customs questions affecting transport

Programme elements

09.8.1 Harmonization of requirements concerning several modes of transport and facilitation of their operation (2)

Programme activity 09.9: Transport of perishable foodstuffs

Programme elements

09.9.1 Harmonization of regulations and standards relating to the international transport of perishable foodstuffs and facilitation of its operation (2)

Programme activity 09.10: Transport statistics and information

Programme elements

09.10.1 Methods of collection and definition of statistics on inland transport and road traffic accidents (2)

09.10.2 Harmonization of transport statistics in Europe (3)

09.10.3 Publication of statistical information in the field of transport (3)

Programme activity 09.11: Facilitation of movement and transport of disabled persons

Programme elements

09.11.1 Road, rail and inland waterway transport aspects (3)

Programme activity 09.12: General issues

Programme elements

09.12.1 Periodical circulation of selected transport information (3)

SUB-PROGRAMME 10 - STATISTICS

Authority: Programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians, approved by the Conference at its fortieth session (ECE/CES/40, paras. 50-52 and Annex I).

Programme activity 10.1: Organization and operation of statistical services

Programme elements

10.1.1 Issues of statistical policy
10.1.2 Adaptation of statistical services to transition and integration processes in Europe
10.1.3 Promotion of the coordination of international statistical work

Programme activity 10.2: Statistical information technology

Programme elements

10.2.1 Use of Electronic Data Processing for statistical purposes
10.2.2 Statistical Computing Programme (SCP)
10.2.3 Design and development of statistical databases
10.2.4 Statistical output for dissemination to information media

Programme activity 10.3: Economic statistics

Programme elements

10.3.1 Development of national accounts
10.3.2 Foreign trade statistics
10.3.3 Indicators of short-term economic and technical change
10.3.4 Manufacturing statistics
10.3.5 Agricultural statistics
10.3.6 Forest and forest industry statistics
10.3.7 Statistics of services
10.3.8 Transport statistics
10.3.9 Statistics of household income
10.3.10 Price and quantity statistics
10.3.11 International comparisons
10.3.12 Business registers in national statistical offices
10.3.13 Methodological issues in the collection, processing, dissemination and analysis of economic statistics

Programme activity 10.4: Social and demographic statistics

Programme elements

10.4.1 Coordination of social and demographic statistics
10.4.2 Methodological issues in the collection, processing, dissemination and analysis of social and demographic statistics
10.4.3 Registers and administrative record for social and demographic statistics
10.4.4 Labour force statistics
10.4.5 Migration statistics
10.4.6 Population and housing censuses
10.4.7 Statistics on women
10.4.8 Human settlements statistics
10.4.9 Demographic projections
10.4.10 Fertility surveys

Programme activity 10.5: Natural resource and environment statistics

Programme elements

10.5.1 Energy statistics

10.5.2 Development of concepts, definitions and classifications in individual areas of environment statistics

10.5.3 Development of an international environmental data service

10.5.4 Methodological problems of environment statistics

10.5.5 Frameworks for environment statistics

Programme activity 10.6: Support for ECE publications, studies and projects

Programme elements

10.6.1 Publication of statistical bulletins

10.6.2 Support for the statistical work of other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies

10.6.3 Provision of statistical information for ECE studies and projects

10.6.4 Substantive support for statistical activities financially supported by UNDP

ANNEX II

SUB-PROGRAMME 00 - POLICY AND COORDINATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AS A WHOLE

Authority: Terms of reference of the Commission; relevant resolutions and other decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 00.1: ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION AS A WHOLE AND PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES

00.1.1 Review and guidance of the activities of the Commission as a whole: evaluation, coordination and formulation of the programme of work

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will consider its work as a whole; review and evaluate its own activity as well as that of its subsidiary bodies; guide the policy orientation, coordination and planning of the work carried out by the subsidiary bodies under its auspices; and formulate and approve its programme of work.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission performs this function with the assistance, as appropriate, of its Sessional Committee. By this mechanism, the Commission, at its annual sessions, considers the reports of its subsidiary bodies on their work and the Executive Secretary's reports on the implementation of its relevant resolutions and decisions. The Commission considers and approves annually its programme of work for the following year and endorses in principle, subject to review at the following session, its long-term programme of work covering the next five years. The policy guidance given by the Commission, including measures for coordination, is embodied in its decisions to be implemented, as appropriate, by member Governments, by the Commission's subsidiary bodies and by its secretariat.

Duration: Continuing.

00.1.2 The work of the Commission as a whole and its future activities

Description: In its decision O (45) the Commission decided on the following priority areas of activity: environment, transport, statistics, trade facilitation, and economic analysis. The Commission also decided on practical measures in these priority areas and on the broad outlines of work in sectors not identified as priorities in order to promote the process of economic reform and integrate the economies in transition into the global economy. The Commission also agreed on a series of measures on the methods of work, the structure and the resources of the Commission. In its decisions A (46) and A (47), the Commission requested its subsidiary bodies to carry out without delay the provisions of decisions O (45) and P (45) when reviewing and carrying out their programmes of work, and requested also the Executive Secretary to implement the provisions of that decision where the secretariat is concerned.

The Commission requested its subsidiary bodies to take into account in their work the pertinent provisions of the relevant CSCE documents which call for multilateral implementation within the framework of the ECE.

It recalled that in accordance with decision O (45) account should be taken of the impact that ECE activities in sectors not identified as priorities, such as energy, have on priority sectors.

Work accomplished: With regard to Commission decision O (45), the priorities as designated were incorporated in the revised Medium-term Plan for 1992-1997 and in the draft budget proposal for the biennium 1994-1995.

With respect to decision A (46), its provisions have been implemented primarily through the redeployment of human and financial resources from programme areas not designated as priorities to the five designated priority areas.

With respect to cooperation with the CSCE, the secretariat has participated in all relevant meetings of the CSCE, including the Helsinki follow-up meeting in March 1992, the Summit meeting in July 1992, and Economic Forum established under the terms of the Helsinki document 1992, in March 1993. It has further participated in an active exchange of documentation on relevant activities of the two bodies in order to avoid duplication of functions (see document E/ECE/1273).

[To be completed as may be necessary]

Duration: One year (1992/1993)

00.1.3 The work of the Commission concerning economies in transition in central and eastern Europe

Description: Taking into account the fact that the recent and current developments in central and eastern Europe modify the characteristics and functioning of the societies and economies of countries of the region, the Commission, in its decisions D (45), B (46) and D (47), considered that in view of its composition and the nature of the cooperation which it implements it had a role to play in assisting the transition to market economies.

In its decision O (45) the Commission noted that work in its five priority sectors contributed significantly to promoting reform and integration or reintegration of the economies in transition with the economies of the ECE region and therefore with the global economy. It decided, in order to promote the process of economic reform, on broad outlines of work in sectors not identified as priorities, and determined that the primary work methods employed to address transition issues should be workshops and other similar informal fora.

Work accomplished: The Commission has continued to organize activities to assist the countries of the region which are in transition to a market economy. In particular the ECE programme of workshops has developed further and over 70 workshops have been held, with approximately the same number on

the provisional programme of future workshops. To assist those countries to finance participation in the workshops a trust fund has been set up to receive contributions from member Governments, donor organizations and institutions and the private sector (See document E/ECE/1272). The Principal Subsidiary Bodies reviewed their programmes and methods of work to permit a rapid and effective response to the needs of the economies in transition. These activities were carried out in close collaboration with the international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular those identified in decisions D (45), O (45) and B (46). In accordance with decision D (47), the Executive Secretary presented at the Ad Hoc Informal meeting in March 1993 a preliminary report on the workshop programme (see document E/ECE/1272).

Work to be undertaken: The workshop programme will continue according to the parameters stated above. Analytical work on the transition process, including internal and external conditions, will continue to be accorded high priority, in accordance with decision B (46).

Member Governments, the European Community and competent international institutions will continue to be invited to participate actively in transition-related activities, and encouraged to provide continued assistance, on a bilateral or multilateral basis, for promoting such activities.

The Principal Subsidiary Bodies will continue to contribute within their competence to the preparation of practical workshops especially on the transition to market economy.

The Executive Secretary will continue to facilitate consultations with interested countries and international institutions in order to provide expertise on programmes of transition to a market economy. (See also sub-programme 01.)

[To be completed as may be necessary]

Duration: Continuing.

00.1.4 Institutional arrangements for ECE

Description: In its decision P (45), the Commission requested its Chairman to convene an ad hoc informal meeting of the Commission, at least once every three months, with, inter alia, the following tasks: (a) to consult on policy matters concerning the activities of the Commission; (b) to assist preparations for the annual sessions of the Commission; (c) to monitor progress in the work programmes of the Commission; (d) to offer any necessary guidance to the Executive Secretary on the work of the Commission.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Seven ad hoc Informal Meetings have been held since the adoption of decision P (45). Further ad hoc informal meetings will be convened by the Chairman of the Commission in accordance with decision P (45).

Duration: Continuing.

00.1.5 Economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE

Description: The Commission and its Principal Subsidiary Bodies pay particular attention to projects and activities of interest to the Mediterranean countries of the ECE region, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Final Act and other Concluding Documents of the CSCE.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission's subsidiary bodies continue to identify areas of interest, particularly in the field of transport and environment, for economic cooperation in the Mediterranean within the framework of over-all ECE activities and the Commission's programme of work. The Executive Secretary cooperates with the secretariats of ESCWA and ECA and other relevant United Nations bodies and pursues contacts with all Mediterranean countries not members of the Commission, on subjects within the competence of the ECE of common interest to the Mediterranean countries. (See document E/ECE/1273.)

[To be completed as may be necessary]

Duration: Continuing

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 00.2: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS, PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS IN THE ECE REGION

00.2.1 Review of economic developments, problems and prospects in the ECE region

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will review economic developments, problems and prospects in the ECE region.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: In response to Commission decisions O (45) and B (46), particular emphasis is given to the analysis of the transition economies and related policy issues. This is reflected in the annual Economic Survey of Europe and the Economic Bulletin for Europe, both of which contain an increased coverage of economic and policy developments in the transition economies. Both the Survey and the Bulletin, as well as other special studies and statistical bulletins prepared and published by the secretariat, are made available to the Commission for this annual review. In its decision B (46), the Commission invited the Senior Economic Advisers and the secretariat, in accordance with the relevant provisions of decision O (45) and having in mind the right and responsibility of the secretariat to exercise independent judgement in its analysis, to deepen their consultations in order to achieve the highest quality of the Survey, notably by improving pre-publication exchange of views; and stressed the need for this Survey to be published in time to enable it to be properly studied and reflected upon during the annual session (paragraph 8).

Duration: Continuing

00.2.2 Population

Description: In accordance with the provisions of decision G (40), the Executive Secretary carries out work in the field of population, within existing resources, and maintains collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the implementation of the relevant recommendations of regional meetings of experts on population convened periodically, but not more than every two years, in cooperation with UNFPA. These meetings aim to provide consultations amongst Governments and the dissemination and exchange of information on population problems and policies in the ECE region.

Work accomplished: Collaboration with UNFPA is maintained through projects dealing, respectively, with economic and social implications of aging, population and development in southern Europe, integration of population and socio-economic policies, migration, and promotion of fertility and family surveys in the ECE region. Funding for these projects is provided by UNFPA. ECE, in cooperation with the Council of Europe and UNFPA, organized a European Population Conference in Geneva from 23 to 26 March 1993 as a regional contribution to the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 as mandated by the General Assembly.

Work to be undertaken: Follow-up to the regional conference and input into the World Conference in 1994, in cooperation and collaboration with the other relevant organizations, as well as the continuation of ongoing activities as described.

Duration: Continuing.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 00.3: RESOLUTIONS BEARING ON THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

00.3.1 Review and follow-up of resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly bearing on the work of the Commission

Description: At its annual sessions, the Commission will review the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly which have a bearing on its work and will decide on the action to be taken by it in the light of the provisions of those resolutions and decisions.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission undertakes this review on the basis of the Executive Secretary's note (see document E/ECE/1279) in which he brings to the Commission's attention the resolutions and decisions bearing on the work of the Commission which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council and by the General Assembly during the period since the previous session of the Commission, and the relevant work underway.

Duration: Continuing.

00.3.2 The Commission's contribution to the follow-up of the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women

Description: In accordance with decision J (40) the Executive Secretary will continue to assess developments with respect to the economic role of women in the ECE region in conjunction with other research activities of the secretariat, taking into account the roles and responsibilities of the regional commissions in developing and implementing the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. In accordance with decision H (44) the secretariat was called upon to concentrate on an inventory of the scope and content of time-use questionnaires and of time-use studies, and to make this data available to member countries. By its resolution 1990/12 the Economic and Social Council called for a World Conference on Women in 1995.

Work accomplished: The secretariat has undertaken a time use study of women in the ECE region, with the financial support of INSTRAW. The Conference of European Statisticians convened two meetings in cooperation with INSTRAW to discuss various methodological problems and issues including usage of the time-use surveys, methods of measuring women's contribution to household income, and estimates of women's under-employment. The Conference convened other meetings on improved measurements of women's labour-force participation and statistical indicators required by the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies in countries of the ECE region and will convene the next one in 1995. It is expected that such statistical input on women's issues will continue and will provide substantive input for the 1995 World Conference on Women.

Work to be undertaken: The regional commissions, including ECE, have agreed to undertake parallel activities in the field of women in cooperation with INSTRAW. The ECE is presently cooperating with INSTRAW on a training and exchange programme involving women farmers in selected central and east European countries. Also in cooperation with INSTRAW, a joint meeting was held in April 1992 on Statistics on Women. ECE has a joint Working Party with FAO which has launched a project on "Analysis of the socio-economic status of rural women and families in selected European countries" in cooperation with the FAO Working Party on Women and the Agricultural Family. ECE is currently investigating the possibilities of cooperating with UNIDO on a joint typology examination of women's involvement in economic and industrial development for the European region, with the aim of identifying strategies and mechanisms to provide women with access to, and participation in, the industrial services sector and to increase women's integration into upper echelons of economic and industrial management. The work is envisaged as being a regional contribution to the 1995 World Conference on Women. Consideration is being given to the holding of a regional preparatory meeting for the World Conference in 1995.

Duration: Continuing.

00.3.3 The Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development

Description: The Commission welcomed General Assembly resolution 44/227 on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 on the Environmental

Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and 42/187 on the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), as well as General Assembly resolution 44/288 on the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In its decision H (45) the Commission reiterated its call upon its subsidiary bodies actively to promote sustainable development as a guiding principle for all relevant activities of the ECE, and agreed to intensify its efforts towards promoting and achieving sustainable development by integrating environmental concerns and considerations into projects and programmes in all areas.

Work accomplished: The results of the regional conference at ministerial level (Bergen, 8-16 May 1990) to review progress in the follow-up of selected aspects of the Report of the WCED were communicated to the appropriate Principal Subsidiary Bodies. A Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics was established The Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems have prepared a contribution to the Lucerne Ministerial Conference on Environment for Europe containing elements for a long-term environmental programme for Europe and ensuing proposals for the Ministerial Declaration (see document E/ECE/1275).

Work to be undertaken: The Joint Working Group will continue to meet and consider issues related to sustainable economic development namely: environment and economics; assessment of the situation in economies in transition; economic restructuring and the environment; financing environmental policy and use of economic instruments for environmental policies. The Senior Economic Advisers, in coordination with the OECD and the UNCED secretariat, will analyse further the interrelationship between economic activity and the environment, identify major factors affecting sustainable economic development in the ECE and study guidelines to achieve such sustainable economic development in the region, taking into account the particular situation of the countries in transition.

The Executive Secretary will continue to bring to the attention of the Executive Secretaries of the other regional commissions the ECE activities aimed at contributing to sustainable development and strengthening of international cooperation in this field, and in particular the results and follow-up of the Bergen Conference.

[To be completed as may be necessary]

Duration: Five years (1988-1995).

00.3.4 Climate change

Description: The General Assembly recognized climate change as a common concern of mankind, and called on all relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to support the work of the joint WMO/UNEP - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: In accordance with decision E (46), the substantive issues related to climate change continue to be studied particularly by the Committee on Energy. The work of IPCC, OECD and IAEA is

taken into account. ECE staff members attend related meetings and contribute to them.

Under the auspices of the Committee on Energy, the Working Group on Gas undertakes studies on the "Interrelationship between gas and climate change" (07.3.7.3) and "Methane emissions" (07.3.7.5). The Working Party on Electric Power deals with "Implications of climate change for electricity supply" (07.3.5.6). The Committee on Energy itself continues to study the "Interface between energy and environment: sustainable development" (07.3.1), including the interface between energy use and climate change.

Duration: Continuing

00.3.5 [Project completed]

00.3.6 International cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

Description: In its decision C (46), the Commission recalled Assembly resolution 45/190 and Council resolution 1990/50, and expressed profound concern about ongoing effects on people's lives and health of the disaster at Chernobyl, which had serious national and international consequences. It noted the work being done by the Committees on Timber, Agriculture, and Human Settlements, the Conference of European Statisticians, and the Working Parties on the Chemical Industry and on Engineering Industries and Automation, in exploring the possibilities to elaborate within their competence projects on problems arising from the Chernobyl accident.

Work accomplished: A number of ECE subsidiary bodies have continued to review proposals for activities to address and mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

Work to be undertaken: The Commission requested these subsidiary bodies to continue their efforts in this direction, and invited other subsidiary bodies to examine the possibility of making a contribution to this end. The Executive Secretary was requested to support the efforts of the subsidiary bodies in implementation of Assembly resolution 45/190.

Duration: Continuing

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 00.4: COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

00.4.1 Review of the Commission's cooperation with other United Nations bodies

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will review its activities in support of and its contribution to other United Nations programmes, especially those of UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA and INSTRAW, as well as of the other regional commissions. It will also consider matters relating to its cooperation with other United Nations bodies including the specialized

agencies such as FAO, ILO, UNESCO, UNIDO and WHO, as well as IAEA. Special attention will be paid to problems of the member countries of the ECE which are developing from the economic point of view as part of the Commission's contribution to the global programmes and objectives of the United Nations aiming at economic development.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission carries out this review annually on the basis of the Executive Secretary's report on the participation of such organizations and programmes in the Commission's work; on the Commission's own contribution to the programmes of these organizations; and on the secretariat's cooperation with the secretariats of these organizations, including the secretariats of the other regional commissions.

Duration: Continuing.

00.4.2 Review of the Commission's cooperation and coordination of activities with other international organizations and institutions

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will review its activities related to cooperation and coordination of its activities with other international economic organizations and institutions, and with international non-governmental organizations participating in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, with particular regard to those organizations and institutions mentioned in decision O (45).

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission undertakes this review annually on the basis of the Executive Secretary's report on the relevant activities arising out of the participation of such organizations and their secretariats in, and the contribution they make to, the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies (see document E/ECE/1278).

Duration: Continuing.

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